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SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
DETECTION
OF THE
STATE *and* SITUATION
Of the Present
SUGAR PLANTERS
OF

Barbadoes and the Leeward-Islands:

Shewing, among other NEW MATTERS,

That the surest Way for *ENGLAND* to
command the Sugar-Market Abroad, is to
contract rather than inlarge her Sugar Colonies.

I N

A LETTER from an Inhabitant of One of
His Majesty's *Leeward Caribbee Islands*, to a
Member of the House of Commons in *England*.

*There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is
that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches, Prov. xiii. 7.*

To which is added,

A LETTER from a Traveller in the *Caribbees*
to his Friend in *London*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WILFORD, behind the Chapter-House in
St Paul's Church-Yard. 1733.

STATEMENT
TO THE
DETECTION
OF THE
STATE AND SITUATION
OF THE
SUGAR PLANTERS

Parliament and the Government:

That the first duty of the Government is to command the Sugar Planters to be so conducted as to produce the greatest amount of sugar for the least cost.

A LETTER from an Independent of One of His Majesty's Agents in the Colonies to a Member of the House of Commons in England.

That the first duty of the Government is to command the Sugar Planters to be so conducted as to produce the greatest amount of sugar for the least cost.

A LETTER from a Member of the Colonies to his Friend in England.

That the first duty of the Government is to command the Sugar Planters to be so conducted as to produce the greatest amount of sugar for the least cost.

LONDON:
Printed by J. WILKINS, at the Office of the General Agent, No. 1, St. Paul's Church-yard.



A
SUPPLEMENT
 TO THE
DETECTION
 OF THE
STATE *and* SITUATION
Of the Present
SUGAR PLANTERS.

S I R,

SINCE upon your reading a Pamphlet which was publish'd in *London* last *April*, intituled, *A Detection, &c.* you are pleas'd, among other Things, to ask my farther Thoughts and Observations on the same Subject ; you shall have them with the Freedom that becomes one who would serve the Com-
B. mon

mon Interest; and the rather because the *Detection* you mention was not (if my Correspondent in *London* hath not been misinform'd) displeasing, upon the Whole, to the truly Great Man to whom it is dedicated.

I. Our Planters complain that, what for want of a Vent for their Sugars in *Europe*, by their being obliged to carry them first to *Great Britain*, and then to re-ship them to Foreign Parts, while the *French*, &c. are under no Restrictions to carry theirs to *France*, &c. but go directly to the first or best Market, and even to *Ireland*, where we are not suffer'd to carry ours; and what thro' the Improvements our Nation's Rivals in the Sugar Manufacture have made thro' our Means in their Colonies, especially what our Nation has enabled the *French* to do in *Hispaniola*, *Martinico*, and other Places; their Sugars are now fallen to such a Price, at all the Markets, as will not near discharge the Costs of making them.

Muscovado Sugar of our *Leward Islands* was considered in the *Detection* at the Value of 16 s. per cent. of our Island Money, which is 10 s. 8 d. Sterling, and is there supposed to sell in *England* at 24 s. per the 112 lb. and indeed, the Price did continue the same here, till within these three Months that it is fallen to 10 s. of our Money, or 6 s. 8 d. Sterling.

While the Price was 10 s. 8 d. Sterling here, the Cost of a Hoghead of *Muscovado* Sugar to the Trader or Shipper, stood thus:

1500 lb.

1500 lb. of Sugar, at 10 s. 8 d.	l.	s.	d.
Sterling per Cent.	8	10	0
The Cask	0	10	8
The 4½ per Cent. Duty, &c.	0	7	4

and will won in obduracy two and 8 18 0

N. B. Of late there has been no Duty in the *Leward Islands* on our Sugar for an Addition to the Governor's Salary; when there was, the Cost was 2 s. more.

A Hoghead of Sugar of 1500 lb. here (where we reckon by short Hundreds) will, if good, and preserv'd from Damage and Pilferage in the Passage, hold out at the King's Beam in London 12 Hundred Net.

Muscovado Sugar of our Islands, was sold in London in the Months of April, May, June, July, and August this Year (1732) at 12 to 16 s. per Cent. which at the Medium of 14 s. is,

	l.	s.	d.
Deduct for Freight 3 s. 6 d. per Cent.	8	8	0
The King's Duty 3 s. 4 d. per cent. 5 per cent. off for Prompt Payment.	2	2	0
Small Expence of Bill Money, Lighterage, Storage, Commissions, Brokerage, &c. 1 s. per cent	0	12	0
Risque and Insurance	0	5	0
	4	19	0

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Cost in the Plantation	—	8	18	0
Net Profits in <i>London</i>	—	3	9	0
Loss to the Trader or Shipper	}	5	9	0
in one Hogthead				

But since our Muscovado is now fallen here to 6 *s.* 8 *d.* Sterling, the Loss to the Trader, supposing it still to sell in *London* at the Medium of 14 *s.* *per cent.* will indeed be no more but 2 *l.* 3 *s.* in the Hogthead, yet that is evidently such a Loss, as will force him either to break, or give over Trading, or else to raise his Goods to a Price we cannot afford to give; as, for Example, If two Barrels of *Irish* Beef cost him (including Freight, Insurance, &c.) 2 *l.* 16 *s.* Sterling, and he proposes to gain, as in Reason he ought, 6 *s.* 6 *d.* on each, he must sell his two Barrels to the Planter here for 1719 *lb.* of Sugar, or the Value thereof in Money at the Price current; if for Money, it will not answer to carry the Cash home with him, he cannot get Bills of Exchange for it from our Planters, because they have not Money in their Factors Hands in *England* to pay the Bills, and as he likewise wants a Loading for his Vessel home, he must therefore either take 1719 *lb.* of Sugar for his Beef, or lay out his Money with the Planter here in 1719 *lb.* of Sugar, and then disposes of it thus:

1500 lb. of it he puts into a Hoghead 1500
 And (since, tho' Sugar is fallen here,
 the Northern Traders will not fall
 their Staves, Hoops, and Heading, } 150
 and the Iron Nails are sold as before)
 the Cask will cost him at least — }
 The $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Duty, &c. on } 69
 1500 lb. of Sugar, is — }

1719

Which 1500 lb. holding out at the King's Beam
 in Great-Britain 12 Hundred, and that selling
 at 14 s. per Cent. there, will clear, after Freight,
 Duties, &c. are discharg'd, 3 l. 9 s. 0 d. and he
 will have got just 13 s. Profit on his two Bar-
 rels of Beef.

And, since it is apparent from what has
 been said in the *Detection* (concerning the ne-
 cessary Costs or Expence of a Sugar Planta-
 tion) that 100 lb. of Sugar cannot be made un-
 der, at the lowest, 6 s. 8 d. this 1719 lb. of Su-
 gar, or these two Barrels of Beef, will have
 cost the Planter above 5 l. 14 s. Sterling, and
 the making the like Quantity must, for the fu-
 ture (as Matters are going) stand him in a
 great deal more, because the Price of Slaves,
 Provisions, Lumber, Cattle, Cloathing, Sugar-
 Utensils, &c. are upon this Fall of Sugar, all
 raised to him, in the same Proportion as two
 Barrels of Beef are raised, from what such a
 Quantity of that Commodity uses to sell at
 here, viz. 600 lb. to 1719 lb. of Muscovado
 Sugar.

The

The Truth is, How exceeding profitable soever a Sugar Colony is to the Mother Nation, it never was (as is proved in the *Detection*) a Mine of Gold to the Possessors, and nothing but a foolish Vanity, which ought to be hooted out of the World, could have prevail'd on us in the *West-Indies* to boast to Others, much less to bring Ourselves to believe, that ever we were Masters of any great Degree of *Wealth* that we cou'd call our own. But as this is a Fact which it nearly concerns our Mother Nation to be made sensible of, I think I have discovered (since the writing of the *Detection*) another Demonstration of it, from the *Abstracts* of the *Proceedings* of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, all which are now before me from the *Time* Col. Codrington's *Estates* in *Barbadoes* came into their Hands, except the *Abstract* for the Year 1729, which happens to be mislaid. And I find it affirm'd in the *Abstract* of 1710 that (a) these Plantations [Col. Codrington's] have been computed to amount to upwards of 2000 l. per Annum, clear of all Charges, and in the next *Abstract*, that (b) The Yearly Crop [of these Plantations] usually amounts to about 2000 l. Profits after Charges deducted. Accordingly it appears from the several Accompts printed in their *Abstracts*, that from the Time they had Possession of them, which was in (c) February 1712, to the 28th of January last, they have received from these two Plantations, in the Article of Sugar, to near the Sum of 40000 l. to which if we add the Produce of the Rum and Molasses (which in *Barbadoes* is always computed in respect of

(a) Page 30. of the 8^{vo} Edition.

(b) Pag. 37.

(c) *Vid.* Abstract 1712, pag. 50.

the Sugar as One to Four) their whole Receipts in that Time amount to near 50000*l.* And the Balance in favour of those Estates in the Hands of the Treasurer (*d*) on the 28th of *January* last was 54*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* or rather the Balance lay against them, because the *Barbadoes* Accompt is still Debtor to the *Society's* Accompt for Money formerly borrowed from thence to pay Bills drawn from *Barbadoes*, as well as for Interest of Part of the Money so borrowed. Now, allowing the whole Produce of the Rum and Molasses, during that Time (which according to the Valuation in *Barbadoes* * ought to be near 10000*l.*) to have been laid out in Plantation-Charges, and (because I know that, whatever some alledge, the Produce of the Rum and Molasses will not support a Sugar Plantation) allowing farther 10000*l.* more to have been disburs'd on the same Account, including the Salary of the *Catechist*, and some other small Expences that are out of the Road of other Plantations, there must have been near 30000*l.* expended on the *College*. I cou'd wish the Disbursements for the Plantations, had been set down in one Article, and the Disbursements for the *College* in another, and not blended together as they are all along in the *Barbadoes* Accompt; but since you, Sir, are intimate enough with many of the Members of that truly Illustrious Society, you may doubtless have a Sight of their *Barbadoes* Accompt when you please; from whence you will perceive that the necessary Expences of these Two Plantations have been much greater than the Society, or any others that are unacquainted

(*d*) Abstract for 1731, pag. 59.
 the *British* Sugar Colonies considered, 4^{to}, London Printed 1731, page 23.

* Present State of

with

with the State of an *English* Sugar Colony cou'd have suppos'd, and consequently (which is my Meaning in making Use of this Instance) that our Sugar Plantations are not of such Value to the Owners as the Publick has long been led to believe.

And since several Members of that Society, which consists of some of the best and wisest Men in the Nation, are in their other Stations concerned in the Direction of Publick Affairs, I hope I shall obtain their Pardon if I presume to put them in Mind, that it is very much their Interest, as a Society, to look into the State and Situation of the Sugar-Trade of *England*, and to give all the Light to it they can, and even to lend a helping Hand, because if that Trade shou'd be lost, or suffer'd to decline as it does, they will never be able to fulfil the Pious and Charitable Designs of their Noble Benefactor, General *Codrington*.

This is certainly a Matter that cannot be made too plain, by reason of it's Consequences; for tho' the Mistakes the World has fallen into concerning it, have hitherto injur'd very few but the Planters or the Proprietors themselves, yet the Nation in the End, and that soon, must be the Grand Loser. Whoever knows any thing of the Trade of *England* will allow that the Sugar-Trade is most beneficial to her; She felt the Profit of it with Pleasure in the two last Wars with *France*, and I wou'd fain hope will continue to do so more and more. (e) 'As there is
' not any thing more certain, than that our *West-*
' *India* Trade has greatly enlarged our *Stock*, and
' increased our *Navigation*, and set the general Ba-

(e) *Wood's Survey of Trade*, 2d Edition, pag. 154.

' *lance of Trade* with some Countries for many
 ' Years on our *Side*; so notwithstanding all our
 ' *Luxuries*, which our *Home-Product* would not
 ' so well have *answered*, it has enabled the Na-
 ' *tion* to gather at the same Time such a *Mass of*
 ' *Wealth* as our *Wars* have expended.' But alas!
 this idle Conceit of the Opulence of our Sugar
 Planters, which I am now labouring to detect,
 has so universally prevail'd as to divert our Na-
 tion from taking that Care of us which her own
 Interest required, while her Rivals have been
 suffered to grow great, and even furnished by
Great Britain with Materials to ruin her own Su-
 gar-Trade; and many other bad Effects it has
 produced, which now begin to be visible, and
 are in every Bodies Mouths; but I beg leave
 to mention one more to you, *Sir*, which I doubt
 has not been observed before, and that is the
 great Hinderance it has proved to the Propaga-
 tion of Christianity, which ought to be the
 dearest Thing in the World to all of us that
 are not Infidels.

The Northern Colonies (except *Virginia* and
Maryland, and that only with regard to *Tobacco*,
 which is their *proper Produce*) are in Fact what
 the Southern are falsely said to be, *very rich*; and
 their Conduct in dissembling *what they are* has
 perhaps turned as much to their private Ad-
 vantage, as our Folly in boasting of *what we*
never were, has injur'd both us and our Mother
 Nation. Very many of the Estates in all the
 Northern Colonies are well settled, and im-
 proving to such a Degree, that what Dr *D'Avenant*
 imagined (*f*) to be the Work of a People that had been
 settling Three or Four Hundred Years, is brought

(f) Discourses on the Publick Revenues, Vol. II. pag. 227.

to pass there in less than a Fourth of that Time ; for not confined now (as he supposed they wou'd be) to *clearing of Woods, rearing of Cattle, Tillage, making of Fences, and raising necessary Buildings,* they have for some Time been setting up *Manufactures,* and are very capable of setting up others of more Extent and Importance, both for their *own Use* and for *Exportation* ; and which renders their Settlements of greater Value than otherwise, they can defend themselves from the Invasions of the Enemies of their Mother Nation in Time of War.

On the other Part, if we except *Barbadoes,* (g) which yet requires the Annual Expence of 80000 *l.* Sterling, to keep up the necessary Complement of Slaves there, there is hardly One Plantation in Forty in all our other Sugar Colonies but is considerably understocked, both in Slaves and other Necessaries for manuring the Soil ; and which is worse, none of them are in a Condition to purchase those Materials while their Produce lies now rotting in *England* for Want of Exportation. The Cost of Settling a Sugar Plantation of 200 Acres, altho' the Land itself was to be had for Nothing, is at the least (h) 8000 *l.* Sterling ; If the Owner of such a Quantity has not that Sum to begin with here, so far as he falls short of it, so far he fails in cultivating his Plantation ; and if (as is the common Way) he borrows it of the Trader, he then falls under Bondage to the Trader, and is perhaps never released from it but with the Loss of his Plantation. A Hurricane sets him farther back than Two

(g) Present State of the *British* Sugar Colonies consider'd, pag. 23.

(h) See the *Deduction*, pag. 42.

seasonable

seasonable Years can advance him; Accidental Fire among the Canes will destroy a great Part of his Crop, and a long-continued Drought a much greater; A Mortality among the Negroes goes near to ruin him; and such a Fall of Sugar as is now in *Europe*, puts him almost out of a Possibility of Redemption. For Sugar is the only thing of Worth that his Soil is capable of producing; Tobacco wou'd interfere with those Colonies whose proper Produce it is, and our Mother Nation wou'd not suffer it; a larger Produce of Cotton, Ginger, Aloes, &c. than now is in *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, and elsewhere, wou'd quickly glut the Foreign Market; we have no Timber to build Shipping, no Materials to set up any one Manufacture, and our Soil will not yield *English* Grain and Fruits. So that when Sugar fails us we are undone, as having neither Food nor Raiment here, nor wherewithal to buy them from *England*, *Ireland*, or the *Northern* Colonies. And to compleat our Unhappy Situation, we are every moment liable, in Time of War, to be devoured by the Enemies of our Mother Nation; insomuch that was a certain Power to fall out with Her once more, the little Islands of *Nevis* and *Montserrat* wou'd scarce be a Breakfast for him; and I fear it has been but too plainly prov'd in (i) *The Detection*, that *S. Christophers*, notwithstanding the Noise that is made of the Inland Fortification there, cou'd not stop him long; and I shou'd be very glad to see it well proved, that the Fortifications on our other Sugar Colonies cou'd stop him any where: Our only Defence or Security

(i) Ibid. pag. 63, &c.

wou'd lie in keeping him from our Shoar; and how the White Inhabitants of our Islands (for at such a Time the Slaves are really our Enemies) can do that, will appear to any Man that pleases to look into their Ranks and Numbers, which he may see at the *Plantation-Office* in *London*.

And yet so powerfully have the Northern (I do not mean the Tobacco) Colonies pleaded Poverty, and so powerfully too have the Southern vaunted their Wealth, that the former have long been believed in *England* to be very poor, and the latter exceeding rich. Dr *Humphreys* speaking of the first, calls them (k) *the poorer Plantations on the Continent*; the other he calls the *Rich Settlements*; and the Bishop of *London* (l) expresses himself to much the same Purpose, as many others had done before them; and in Consequence of this mistaken Notion, the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, have so bent their Force in Favour of these Colonies, as to have none left for the many Thousands of Heathens that are perishing in our *West-Indies*; as if they rather were a Society for the Conversion of the Dissenters on the Continent, than for the propagating of the Gospel *in partibus infidelium*. 'Tis true, the Sugar Colonies being in a manner *Wholly*, and the Tobacco Colonies *in the Main*, inhabited by profess'd Members of the Church of *England*, they did long enough ago make (as the Value of the Produce of their several Plantations then was) a tolerable Provision for a Regular Clergy to be licensed by the Bishop

(k) *Historical Account of the Society*, pag. 9. (l) *Letters to the Masters of Slaves, and the Missionaries*, pag. 9, 10.

of *London* ; and, did not the wretched Poverty into which the Sugar Settlements are now fallen, render it impracticable, some of them, to my Knowledge, wou'd make their Clergy easier in their Circumstances, than many of them are at present. But the other Colonies having been chiefly settled by Dissenters, from whom a due Provision for a Church of *England* Clergy, was not to be expected, this, no doubt, induced the Society to pity and help them first ; as indeed, considering the woful Ignorance into which they were sunk, it was as necessary *to begin with them*, as I hope it will be judged wrong *never to have done with them*. And since the kind Treatment and extensive Charity they have long received from their Mother Nation, and the great Pains the Society in particular has taken to instruct and reclaim them, has prevailed on many, and is like to prevail on many more of those Dissenters, to return into the Bosom of the Church, from which their Forefathers unhappily departed ; and since the Figure these Northern Colonies now make in the World, and their large *Produce* and *Exportations* in Trade (as shall be shewed by and by) demonstrate them to be not a little considerable for their Wealth ; it is to be hoped, they will not think it reasonable that Contributions should be still raised by the serious Christians in *England*, to make Provision for their Spiritual Welfare, which they are better able to do themselves than many of these good People at Home, who do it for them. Within these last Ten Years, the Society has laid out (as appears from their printed Accounts) not less than 20,000 *l.* Sterling, in Salaries to Missionaries, Catechists, and School-

School-Masters, for their Service alone, and 180, or 190, and of late 240*l. per annum*, in Salaries to their Secretary, Treasurer, and Messenger, which ought likewise to be placed to the Account of those Colonies. A very great Sum, to arise from Charity! and which could not, had it not been so diverted, but have enabled the Society to do good Service in their Grand and General Design, *viz.* the Conversion of Heathens! And I am verily persuaded, that even the Dissenters in the Northern Colonies, are such Lovers of Mankind, and of *Him* who died for Mankind, that, far from diverting that excellent Charity any longer from its Natural Channel to themselves, they will, as soon as the proper Methods shall be taken to bring the Inhabitants to make a suitable Provision for a Regular Clergy, rather readily concur in, than give the least Obstruction to, so fit and reasonable a Work. And then the Society will have *wherewithal* to pursue what seems to be more peculiarly their Work, the Conversion of *Indians* and *Negroes*. As to the *Indians* on our part of the Continent, I'm sorry the Traders have so accustomed them to the Use of Rum, that unless they continue to supply that unhappy People with it, they will enter into no Commerce at all with them, and if they are still supply'd with it, there is no such thing as bringing them over to Christianity, or any thing that is good, useful, or praise-worthy. But of this more hereafter. Something considerable might be done for the Negro-Slaves on the Continent, where, excepting *South-Carolina*, and the Tobacco Colonies, they are not very numerous. And something likewise might be begun in Favour of the
Negroes

Negroes of our Sugar Colonies, which it will be granted are one principal Object of the Care of a Society incorporated for the Propagation of the Gospel; not that I think the Society will ever be able, with all the Helps they can procure from private Christians, to propagate it successfully among them; but sure they wou'd have Time to look in earnest into the State of that perplex'd and dark Affair, which it does not appear they have been able to do since their Incorporation; and when once they shall discover the Hinderances of such a Work, and the Means as well as the Necessity of proceeding in it, they cannot fail to represent the Case in all its Circumstances to those whom it concerns to know it; and such a Representation would, without all Peradventure, in a Moment open the Eyes of every one of us that pretends to be a Christian, and instantly constrain him, either to charge himself with his share of Duty in this Particular, or else (which must be terrible to any Man of Conscience) sit down condemned in his own Mind.

This, *Sir*, is a Digression which I know you will forgive.—But not to deviate too far, What our Sugar-Planters complain of as one great Cause of the Declension of the Sugar Trade, is, their being obliged to ship their Sugar to *Great-Britain* at all Times, whether there is a Market there for it, or no, and when they are well assur'd there is a Market for it elsewhere; while the *French*, our Nation's chief Rivals in this Trade, are encouraged to furnish almost all the Markets of *Europe*, even *Ireland* (where we dare not go) with their Sugar, without going first to their Mother Nation

Nation with it ; by which different Regulation of their Sugar Trade and ours, and the Difference that is between the Duties on their Sugar and ours, they are able to supply the Foreign Markets Thirty *per cent* cheaper than we can. But our Disadvantage in this Respect having been fully and plainly demonstrated already by (m) a much abler Hand, I say no more if it here, but refer you to his Performance.

That the *French* are to be commended for thus consulting their Interests, and that we have no Right to oppose them in so doing, any other Way than by consulting ours in a just and suitable Manner, cannot be deny'd ; but since our Nation seems (as I hope to shew She hath good Cause) to be alarm'd at the strange Increase of their Sugar Plantations, and the no less strange Declension of her own, the *French* are too cautious, and too provident of Futurity, not to try to keep her in the dark, what they can, as to the true Ground or Foundation of all this. Their Edicts of *January* 1726 and *October* 1727 in behalf of their Sugar-Trade ; their bestowing of Land in *Hispaniola*, and transporting of People thither *gratis* ; the Encouragements given to subsist them there till they can subsist themselves ; the great Care that has been taken (ever since their first Violation of the Treaty of Neutrality between *Great Britain* and them in *America*) to strengthen and secure their Settlements in *Martinico*, *Guadalope*, *Granade*, *Grandterre*, and *Marigalante* ; and the Fertility of their new Soils, and Easiness of cultivating them beyond what ours are capable of ; are, I suppose, Facts well known to the Publick ; and since the

(m) Present State of the *British* Sugar Colonies considered.
Genius

Genius and Methods of living of our People and the *French*, are in some Instances pretty different, I will allow their Sugar Planters have been more parsimonious than ours, or, if you please, that *Frenchmen* live and fare harder than *Englishmen*. It must also be perceived, on the other Hand, that in the two last Wars with *France*, our Sugar Colonies suffered much more from their Arms, than theirs did from ours; some have complained that the same Care was not taken of us at *Utrecht*, as was of them; *Jamaica*, consider'd as a Colony, has lost the Trade to the *Spanish* Coast, and, in Consequence of that, her Seafaring Hands; the conquered Part of *St Christopher's* has been sold (at a Price and in a Manner unexampled on this Side the Globe, or perhaps any where else) to those who ventured their Lives to conquer it, as the Inhabitants of the *English* Part of that Island (with the Assistance of the neighbouring Islands) did twice, once in *K. William's* War, and again in *Queen Anne's*, and defended the whole at a very great Expence to themselves, and with the constant Hazard of their Lives, during both these Wars; the Trade to *Africa* has been so carried on for many Years, that Slaves, the prime Materials (as Things are ordered) for cultivating our Soil, come worse and dearer to us, and we have not that Credit for them, as when the *African* Company flourished; the *Spanish Guarda Costa's* have injured our Trade, and all of us have been tired out in making Additions to the Salaries of the several Governors, which are Hardships unknown to the *French*. These, if taken together, must be confessed to have given those Rivals no small Advantage over us; but yet it is not to them

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only, or chiefly, that the Increase of their Plantations and Sugar Trade, and the Declension of ours, is owing.

Brandy, at least what is good, is wholly the Manufacture of *France*, and in Demand over almost the whole known World; and *France* making enough of it to supply all Demands, even those of her own Fisheries on the North Coast of *Newfoundland*, and her Settlements at *Cape Breton*, *Quebec*, and elsewhere, her Sugar Colonies were never indulged to make *Rum*, except for Uses in Physick, and their Negro Slaves, as being a Commodity that would interfere with a main Branch of the Produce of *France*; and the *Molasses* of Course was all given to their Slaves and Hogs, or thrown away as useless. Thus stood the no small Article of *Rum* and *Molasses*, 'till in our two last Wars with *France*, the last especially, too many of our Vessels from *New-England*, *Rhode-Island*, &c. that traded with our Sugar Colonies in Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, falling into the Hands of their Privateers, the *French* soon discern'd what a mighty Gain it must be to a Sugar Colony to have Lumber ready squared and sawed out for building of Houses, making of Cask, and other Uses, which till then they had been forced to cut out of hard Wood, and to take off near a fourth Part of their Hands (since employ'd to better Purpose in their Sugar Manufacture) to prepare the same at *Dominico*, and elsewhere, as well as in their own Mountains, which now began to fail them; and finding also, that the Horses from *New-England*, &c. did answer Plantation use incomparably, beyond what could be had from any other Quarter, and that the Bread, Flower, Fish,

salt

salt Pork, &c. from the Continent, were good in the kind, and very suitable to their Occasions; no sooner did the Cessation of Arms between *England* and *France* take place in these Parts, but they permitted and encouraged the Importation of those so necessary Materials into their Colonies of *Martinico*, *Guadalope*, &c. And so sensible were they of the Benefit of this Commerce to the Sugar Colonies, that at first they made no Scruple to pay for them in Money, which Money was immediately brought by these Northern Traders to our own Islands, and laid out with us in Sugar, Rum, and Molasses; but soon finding that their Rum and Molasses would be as acceptable a Return to those Traders for these Commodities, the *French* were allow'd to set themselves in good earnest to the making of Rum, and have ever since purchased all their Lumber, Horses, &c. with that and Molasses, which before were of no Benefit to them. What an Advantage this must be to all the *French* Sugar Colonies (except *Hispaniola*, in the Article of Lumber, which it does not much want) may be guess'd at from what the single Island of *Barbadoes* pays yearly to our Northern Colonies for those Materials, viz. 85,000 *l.* Sterling, as calculated by the last mentioned Author, (*n*) thus,

	<i>l.</i>
Fish —————	20,000
Lumber, Boards, Staves, &c. —	40,000
Horses —————	15,000
Flower, Bread, Corn, &c. ———	10,000
	<hr/>
	85,000

(*n*) Ibid. p. 23.

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And

And our other Northern Colonies of *Pensilvania*, *Virginia*, *New-York*, &c. soon observing this, grew less fond of what (in reference to the Interests of our Mother Nation) is more properly their Produce or Manufacture, and unanimously gave into this Trade with the *French*. And all of them did the same with the *Hollanders* at *St Eustace*, *Curafoa*, but especially at *Surinam*, where Lumber was then so scarce, that for one empty Hogshead, they would fill the Importer another of equal Dimensions, with Molasses ; and to such a Height is this Trade carried there, that the *Dutch* begin now to put our Northern Traders under Discipline, and will not deal with them at all unless they import a certain Number of Horses (which are in great Demand there) in proportion to the Tonnage, and other Cargo of the Vessel ; and so strict are they in this Particular, that when any of the Horses die, or are thrown over-board in the Voyage, the Trader's Oath will not serve, but their Hoofs must be produced for a Certificate at *Surinam*. The Island of *Curafoa* is of no Worth for its Native Produce, and yet, by being supplied with Provisions from *Ireland*, and our Northern Colonies, it is able to maintain a Trade wonderfully beneficial to *Holland* ; for, besides its Commerce with the *French* and *English* Islands, there are seldom fewer than ten of their *West-India* Company's Ships there, of from Sixteen to Forty Guns, and from Fifty to 120 Hands, or more, six of which, besides a great many Slaves, are constantly employ'd all along the *Spanish* Coast, from *Porto-Rico* to near the *Bastimentos*, where they sell their *European* Goods for Cocoa, Tallow, Hides, *Spanish* Tobacco, Mules,

Mules, Drugs, Spices, Dying-Woods, and some Money; and these are a sort of Vessels that the *Guarda Costa's* never meddle with but thro' Mistake, and then, their Mistake costs them dearer than I shall say. And it is pleasant enough to see how the *Dutch* discipline us there too; for, tho' the Trade of that Island cannot possibly be carried on but with the Help of *Ireland*, and our *Northern Colonies*, yet none of them are admitted now to trade there without paying Nine *per cent.* Duty to the Company. Not that the *French* are behind-hand with the *Dutch*, in Point of Gratitude; for no sooner at any Time are they sufficiently stock'd with Horses, Lumber, and Provisions, but they seize all the Vessels from *Ireland* and our *Northern Colonies*, that are within their Reach, and condemn them as good Prize, as they did about two Years ago at *Santa Lucia*, calling it (as indeed it is) a *Clandestine Trade*, contrary to the *Laws and Treaties of both Nations*. The Case stands thus: The Merchants of *Nantz*, *Bourdeaux*, &c. who have the furnishing their Colonies with Necessaries, send their Ships directly from those Places to *Ireland* for Provisions, and from *Ireland* to their Sugar Colonies; and when the Wheat Harvest in *France* proves good, and they have got what they are pleased to call a sufficient Stock (which, however, is never sufficient) of such Provisions, they presently procure the strictest Orders from Court to the Governors abroad, to check this *contraband Trade*, and these Orders (notwithstanding a standing Instruction to the *French* Governors in these Parts, to permit, upon the Request of the Inhabitants, the Importation of Provisions, &c. from any Quarter) are for that
Time

Time as strictly executed; but their Sugar Planters knowing that these Merchants are only making a Property of them, and that they must pay dearer (and in another Species than Rum or Molasses) for the Provisions thus imported from *Ireland* and *France*, than for those we carry to them from *Ireland* and our *Northern Colonies*, they will always, be the Prohibition ever so strongly guarded, find means to deal with our Traders, either at *S. Lucia*, or elsewhere; and if our Northern Vessels dare not meet them at these Places, for fear of Confiscation, they will send their own Vessels with Rum, &c. to our Northern Colonies to purchase Provisions, and what else they want; which Vessels afterwards take out their Clearings from *Cape Breton*, and then return to their Sugar Islands, where the Thing (their Necessities really compelling them to it) is never strictly look'd into.

Hence it is evident that both these Nations (the *French* especially) are exceeding Gainers by this Trade; nay so well are all their Sugar Colonies furnished with all the Particulars so often mentioned, *viz.* Horses Lumber and Provisions, as often to have them cheaper than we have, and while I am now writing (*November 1732*) *Irish* Beef is sold at *Curaçoa* and *Martinico* at Five or six, and with us [the *English* *Leward Islands*] at Nine or ten Pieces of Eight by the Barrel; for the *French* being loaded with no such Duties on their Sugar, Rum, and Molasses as we are, they can under-sell us to our Brethren of the *Northern Colonies* and *Ireland* in every Branch of the Produce, and therefore these our Brethren chuse rather to deal with them than with us.

And

And to this Trade it is, *Sir*, that the long Declension, and near approaching Ruin of our Sugar Colonies and Trade, and the no less signal Rise of the *French*, is chiefly to be attributed.

But, say some, What of all that? Wou'd it be Wisdom in *Great Britain* to refuse to furnish her Rivals, or even her Enemies, with such Things as they can get elsewhere, or raise up in their own Countries, provided she promotes her proper Benefit by such supplying them? And here the *Dutch* are brought for an Example, who supplied *France* in the last War with Naval and Warlike Stores, as well as with Grain, Pot-ash, Starch, Pipe-Staves, Brown Sugar, Dying-Goods, unwrought Copper, Steel, Iron, Salt-Fish, Hides, Wool, Bees-Wax, Train-Oil, Borax and Quicksilver, and Butter and Cheese for *Lent-time*. Whether the *Dutch* gained by this Trade, was (I remember) doubted by some at the End of that War, while others supposed *France* and them to have been near on a *Par*; but considering that the Things the *Dutch* got in Return from *France* (*viz.* Wine, Brandy, Salt, Paper, Window-Glass, all sorts of Oil, dried Fruits, Olives, Anchovies, Levant-Coffee, and all other *Turkey* Goods) did serve for Luxury, or at best were perishing Commodities, if their Re-Exportation of the same did not much exceed their Consumption, they must have been Losers by it: *Rotterdam* oppos'd it strenuously at first, as pernicious to their Country; some ruling Men indeed, who had easy Access to the Farmers of the *French* Revenue, might meet their Account in it, and the common People were pleas'd, because it gave them present Business,
and

and open'd a quicker Vent for their Land Produce; but as soon as the Luxuries it introduced became visible, some of the Chief of their States were for putting a Stop to it, and probably would have done so, notwithstanding the Inclinations of the Vulgar, and the Interest of private Persons, if our Nation had then thought fit to thwart a Trade, which whatever it was to *Holland*, was by many deem'd disadvantageous to us. However; 'twas certainly the Prospect of Gain to the *Dutch*, consider'd as a Nation, that led them into that Trade; but this cannot be pretended, as I hope presently to shew, in the Trade between our *Northern Colonies*, and the *French Islands* here, with respect to our Nation. The *Dutch* likewise saw, that the *French* might be furnished with Naval Stores, &c. from other Places; but neither can this be pretended in the present Case. Horses for Mills, and other Uses, they can have none, except from where their Saddle and Coach-Horses are brought, viz. *Old France*, the Mule-Trade with *Spain*, is at best clandestine and precarious, and so very expensive, that Mules, as soon as imported here, are generally sold from 18 to 28*l.* Sterling per Head; neither will their Plantation-Produced, purchase them from the *Spaniard*, no, nor from the *Dutch* at *Curaçoa*, unless at a Price they cannot afford to part with it. Pork, Flower, and some Trifles of other Provision, they may have from *France* at a very dear Rate, and when the Harvest proves good; but what possible Way have they to be supply'd with salt Beef, Herrings, &c. which are also in good Demand in *France* itself, but from *Ireland*? Can any one of their Sugar Colonies subsist without Plenty of Corn, Bread,

Bread, &c. ? And where are these to be had at a tolerable Price, but from our *Northern Colonies* ? As for Lumber, viz. Boards, Joists, and Shingles for Building, Staves, Hoops, and Heading for Cask, it is indeed alledged, that these may be had from the Bay of *Apalachy*, or their own Settlements at *Quebec* ; but whoever is acquainted with the Length, Difficulties, and Hazards of the Navigation, to and from those Places, and the *French* Incapacity in both to furnish the several Sortments of Timber that are to be had with Ease, and at a small Expence from our *Northern Colonies*, will say no such thing ; however, since great Stress is laid upon this (which sure the *French* would have attempted before now, had it been practicable) let them try to procure their Lumber from those Places, if they can ; since we are sure they cannot get Horses and Provisions, at a reasonable and living Price, any where but from us, and since we know they can neither improve nor preserve their Sugar Settlements without both, while they are providing the Lumber Part, whether from *Apalachy*, *Canada*, or their own Mountains in the *West-Indies*, our Plantations being plentifully supply'd in all those Articles, we shall be able to make Sugar, Rum, and Molasses in such Quantities, before they can recover themselves, that it will not be worth the while of *French*, *Dutch*, or any other Nation, to pretend to vye with ours in those Manufactures.

But since the Gain that comes to our *Northern Colonies*, and at length to *Great-Britain*, by this Trade with the *French* and *Dutch* Sugar Settlements, is said to be greater than the Damage our Sugar Colonies, and *Great-Britain* in

the Sequel, can sustain by it; and since it is also affirm'd, that an absolute Restraint of this Trade between the Foreign Colonies and ours on the Continent, whose Product (excepting Tobacco) consists in Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, would ruin our *Northern* Colonies, and in particular, disable them to pay for the *British* Manufactures they consume, and that our Sugar Colonies cannot take off one Half, if a Third, of their Product, nor furnish them with the Rum and Molasses necessary for their *Fisheries* and *Indian* Trade, so that the other Half, if not two Thirds of their Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, which are now exported to the *French* and *Dutch* Colonies, and exchange'd there for Money, Sugar, Rum, Molasses, Cocoa, Indigo, &c. would be all lost to them—— These being Matters of Importance, I shall try to search to the Bottom of them.

(o) ' The late ill Order in our Affairs' (says Dr *Davenant*, speaking of King *William's* War) ' sufficiently evinces what a mutual Dependance ' our *Southern* and *Northern* Colonies (in *Ame-* ' *rica*) have one upon another; for so little ' Care was taken for the Convoys that were to ' protect the Supplies of Provision for our ' (Sugar) Islands, that though all Necessaries ' might have been as well (tho' not quite so ' cheap) sent from *Ireland*, as from the *Nor-* ' *thern* Plantations, yet 'tis apparent that many ' Times, the *Southern* Parts must have perish'd ' for Want, if they had not been supply'd by ' the *Northern* Colonies. But however useful ' they may have been to His Majesty's Islands

(o) Discourses on the Publick Revenues, Vol. II. Page 231, 232.

during

‘ during the War, yet it will perhaps concern
 ‘ the Publick to look a little into the Posture
 ‘ of Affairs upon the Continent.—*First*, with-
 ‘ out doubt, the Negligence of former Times,
 ‘ has suffer’d a greater Number of Plantations
 ‘ on the Continent, than do well consist with
 ‘ the Navigation, and other Interests of their
 ‘ Mother Country. *Secondly*, It cannot be for
 ‘ the Publick Good of a Kingdom, to furnish
 ‘ Colonies out of it with People, when the
 ‘ Product of such Colonies is the same with
 ‘ the Kingdom’s, and so rivals the Kingdom
 ‘ both in it’s Navigation and in it’s Product, at
 ‘ the Markets where such Product is vended.
 ‘ *Thirdly*, It can hardly be the Interest of a
 ‘ Country, to suffer it’s People to make Settle-
 ‘ ments of several Plantations that yield one
 ‘ and the same Commodity.—*Fourthly*, As
 ‘ many Empires have been ruin’d by too much
 ‘ enlarging their Dominions, and by grasping
 ‘ at too great an Extent of Territory, so our
 ‘ Interest in *America*, may decay, by aiming at
 ‘ more Provinces, and a greater Tract of Land,
 ‘ than we can either cultivate or defend.’

Such is the Interest of our Nation in her
 Sugar Colonies, that (in the Opinion of one
 who seems to have been no incompetent Judge
 of such Matters) the Preservation of them is
 the *best*, or *only* Thing that all her *Northern*
 Colonies are good for. (p.) ‘ For (says he)
 ‘ without our *Southern Colonies*, our *Northern*
 ‘ *Colonies* can be of *no real Advantage* to us ;
 ‘ since what they are at present, must *cease* on
 ‘ the Decay or Loss of the *Sugar Islands*, from
 ‘ whence their Value to *Great Britain* chiefly

(p) Wood’s Survey of Trade, p. 149.

arises, and for want of *which*, they would be otherwise *prejudicial Colonies* to their *Mother Country*.’

(*q*) ‘Great Care (says Mr *Gee*) has been taken (by those Countries of *Europe* who have Colonies in *America*) to prevent such Colonies from going upon such Manufactures as did interfere with theirs at Home; for as People are the Riches of a Kingdom, it would be sad Policy indeed for Governments to spare them, be at the Charge of protecting them abroad, and yet allow them to set up the Manufactures of their Mother Kingdom, whereby they wou’d supply themselves, and in respect to Trade and Commerce, throw them into a State of Independency.—— The *Spaniards* have very few of their own, yet take Care to discourage any of the Manufactures of *Europe* being carried on in their Plantations; they will not suffer the making of Wines, Oils, and many other Things, because Old *Spain* should have the Benefit of supplying them, and also that they may not be interrupted in raising the Produce of their Plantations. The *Portugueze* have done the like in the *Brazils*; and tho’ they have none of their own, rather chuse to buy the Manufactures of other *European* Countries, because their Planters should not be diverted from carrying on those of Sugar and Tobacco, and applying themselves to their Mines.—— This ought to put us upon Considerations, what we should gain if our Colonies were duly regulated and encourag’d, since we are

(*q*) Trade and Navigation of *Great-Britain* consider’d, 3d Edition, p. 77.

‘capable

‘capable of supplying them with all such Manufactures as they shall want, by the Industry of our own Inhabitants. The Regulations *France* has made for turning every Undertaking in their Plantations to the Good of their Mother Country, is so extraordinary, that it deserves Imitation.’ And again, (r) ‘We ought always to keep a watchful Eye over our Colonies, and restrain them from setting up any of the Manufactures which are carried on in *Britain*, whereby they would do us much Hurt, and themselves no Good, because their Labour might be more profitably employ’d in raising the Product of the Country; and any such Attempts should be crushed.—’

(f) ‘As the Bounds of Liberty are exceeded,’ (says a Writer on this Subject) ‘Whenever it is put in the Power of one or more of a Society to act to the Damage or Detriment of that Society with Impunity; so Trade, which ought to be general and free to all, certainly may, and ought to be restrained, wherever it is found injurious or disadvantageous to the Society in general.’

The *Northern Colonies* (Tobacco, and lately Rice, excepted) have all applied themselves to Tillage and raising of Cattle, which are the Natural Labour and Product of *England*, and finding their Account in this by the Vends they have for the same, and for Lumber (which indeed may be called their Natural Product) both in our Sugar Plantations, and in those of *France* and *Holland*, have declin’d going upon

(r) *Ibid.* p. 162. (f) Importance of the *British Plantations in America*, Printed for J. Peele, 1731, p. 1.

such Labour and Productions, as not only do not interfere with those of *England*, but might be rendered highly beneficial to her.

The Sugar Colonies have no Produce of their own for Cloathing, and little or none for Food; and, excepting some Cotton, Ginger, and Aloes at *Barbadoes* and *Jamaica*, and the Coffee-berry lately begun to be raised at the latter Place, they neither do nor can employ themselves in any Thing but Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, which, far from interfering with the Product of *England*, or of her Colonies on the Continent, have prov'd very serviceable to both. Sugar, our Grand Produce, is (as the World goes) indispensibly necessary to *Great-Britain*, and all other Parts of *Europe*, and yet, can no more be raised to Purpose any where out of the Torrid Zone, than the Fir, Oak, Ash, or Sycamore-Tree, will thrive any where within it, and therefore, is in Effect, and, as far as we can raise it, as much the Manufacture of *Great Britain*, as if it was produced within herself: From whence it follows, that our Nation will preserve, improve, and encourage these Colonies for her own Sake.

And if the Good of the Mother Nation, preferable to what may be the private Interest of any of her particular Colonies, ought to be pursued by all her Colonies, or supposing any of her Colonies not to pursue it preferable to their private or single Interest, the Mother Nation, out of Regard to her own Preservation and Prosperity, will, as undoubtedly she justly may, compel such Colony, or Colonies, to be subservient to her Superior Interests, or to the General Good of the Nation and its Dependencies.

And

And if it shall appear that any such Colonies apply themselves to a Produce that both interferes with her own, and, by being exported to her Rivals in another Produce (which it is her Interest, if she can, to confine to herself) enables such her Rivals to beat her out of the Foreign Market for that Produce.

And if it shall farther appear, that such her Colonies (so interfering with her own Produce, and so enabling her Rivals to supplant her in another Produce, which she can no way come at, but by some of her own Colonies elsewhere) have other Means of employing their Hands to the full, both for the Mother Nation's Benefit, and their own; the Mother Nation will certainly restrain them from proceeding any longer on such a Produce, or from exporting any more of it than is convenient to serve her own General Interests.

That all our *Northern Colonies* interfere with their Mother Nation, in one Species or other, needs little Proof, it being notorious that they generally produce Corn and Cattle, which are the Produce of *England*, and that most, if not all sorts of *English Husbandry*, are carried on there with less Labour and greater Increase, than in *England*. (t) *The Fisheries of New-England*, and it's Dependencies, have produced at a Medium, for several Years past, 230,000 Quintals of dried Fish, which is sent to Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, and upon an Average, have produced there, clear of all Charges, 12s. per Quintal, or 138,000 l. Sterling. (u) *This Trade hath increased lately above one third Part; and it is thought, that this Increase hath been in a great*

(t) *Ibid.* p. 102.(u) *Ibid.* p. 103.

Measure owing to the Trade carried on by the New England People to the French Islands. Now, this Fish being all catched and cured by their own Inhabitants, and exported by themselves in their own Shipping, it may seem to deserve Consideration, whether the same does not prejudice the Fisheries of the Nation, particularly the Newfoundland, (w) in which, (as Sir Josiah Child long since observ'd) few ought in Prudence to be employ'd but the Inhabitants of Old England, whose Trade to the Streights in Fish, is thereby considerably lessened, and (x) some of the Ports of Great Britain, such as Poole and others, sunk into the lowest State of Poverty, by its remarkable Decay. Nor is the Bulk of the Money they get for their Fish in the Streights, carried to Great Britain, as some would persuade us, but (y) laid out with the French and Dutch in Europe for East-India Goods, French Silks, &c. which, as poor as they would have us think them, are no such small Ware in our Northern Provinces: We have Mr. Gee's Word for it too, who says, (z) They frequently invest Part of the Produce [of their Fish, Lumber, Wheat, &c.] in Goods which they meet with in those Places, as Italian and French Silks, Stuffs, Druggets, India Silk, Callicoe, French, Dutch and Ham-burgh Linnens, and the Money that should be brought to England, is laid out in Foreign Manufactures. One Third at least of the Sugar carried to Great Britain from our Sugar Colonies, (a) goes in New-England Shipping; and I

(w) New Discourse of Trade, p. 205. (x) Comparison between the British Sugar Colonies, and N. England, printed for J. Roberts, 1732, p. 5. (y) Ibid. p. 20. (z) Trade and Navigation of G. Britain consider'd, p. 49. (a) Comparison, &c. p. 5.

have often known the *London Ships* that come here for Sugar, forced to lower their Freight on the coming in of the *New-England Ships*, which, being built cheaper than perhaps is done in *England*, generally (if not always) take it in at 6 *d. per cent.* less than *British* built Ships can afford to do. (b) *In my Opinion* (says Sir *Josiah Child*) *there is nothing more prejudicial, and in prospect more dangerous to any Mother Kingdom, than the Increase of Shipping in it's Colonies*, which, was there nothing more in it, may drain the Nation of Artificers to a Degree she cannot on some Occasions well bear: *No Colony*, as he says, *is so apt for Ship-building as New-England*, and accordingly (c) *it is computed, that by the Trade within her own Bounds only, there are not less than 600 Sail of Ships and Sloops employ'd, making at least 38,000 Tons, none of which, when employ'd in Freight from the Sugar Islands, or otherwise, (d) ever fit or repair in England.* (e) *Pensylvania builds about 2000 Tons of Shipping yearly, over and above what they employ in their own Trade, only that such Vessels are always loaded thence.* And the rest of the *Northern Colonies* are going on the same Trade of Ship-building as fast as they can.

(f) 'If in *New-England*, or in other Parts 'there (says *Dr Davenant*) they should pretend 'to set up Manufactures, and to cloath as well 'as feed their Neighbours, their Nearness and 'low Price, would give them such Advantages 'over this Nation, as might prove of pernicious 'Consequence.' This indeed he did not think practicable in less than three or four hundred

(b) Discourse on Trade, p. 207. (c) Importance, &c. p. 102. (d) *Ib.* p. 67. (e) *Ib.* p. 93. (f) Discourses, &c. Vol. II. p. 226.

Years; but what would he say, was he now to see the *Manufactures* that are set up on the Continent? I shall barely mention some of them from Writers of their own, and chiefly from (g) an Author of undoubted Credit in this Case, who says in his Preface, *He is apprehensive that some may think he has undervalued the Trade and Importance of those Colonies.*

(b) *The chief Exports from South-Carolina, are, Rice, Deer-Skins, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, Beef, Pork, tann'd Leather, Cedar Wood, Deal Boards, Pipe Staves, Timber of all sorts, Masts, Yards, &c. And some few Ships have been built there, and those as good as any that ever were built in America. (i) It produces also Myrtle-berries, of which Wax is made, Sumach, Saffras, China-Root, great and small Snake-root, with Variety of other Physical Roots and Herbs.*—

(k) *and Rosin from the Pine-tree, (l) and, besides those already named, sends to the French, Dutch, and English Islands, Butter, Tallow, Soap and Candles, both of Myrtle-Wax, and Tallow.*

(m) *Great Quantities of Tobacco are made in North Carolina, which is reckoned a Disadvantage to Virginia. (n) The People of New-England carry from thence, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, Pork, Deer-Skins, some Tobacco, and sometimes Indian Corn.*

Virginia and Maryland, produce the same Things, and almost in equal Quantity, (o) namely, Tobacco, some Pitch and Tar, Deer-Skins,

(g) *Importance of the British Plantations in America.*

(b) *Ibid.* p. 63. (i) *Letter from a Swiss Gentleman, printed for A. Baldwin, 1710, p. 8, 9.* (k) *Ibid.* p. 11.

(l) *Ibid.* p. 16. (m) *Importance, &c.* p. 70. (n) *Ib.* p. 71. (o) *Ibid.* p. 73.

and

and Furs of several sorts, Snake-Weed, Walnut-Tree Plank, Pipe, Hogthead, and Barrel, Staves, and some Iron in Pigs; to which he might have added Indian Corn, which they export, as well as their Lumber, to the *West-Indies* in great Quantities. (p) *The Value of the Lumber annually imported from those two Provinces (into England) is not less than 15,000 l. and the Skins and Furs not less than 6000 l.* (q) *They produce Flax as good as any in the World, and manufacture that as well as Wool, of which they have great Plenty, and which is full as good, if not better, than what we have in England.*——So that it is not unusual there to see Men of good Ability cloathed with Linnen and Woollen of their own Produce and Manufacture. (r) *No Country has finer Oak, and in greater Plenty.* (s) *Iron is*
 ‘ more easily made there, than perhaps in any
 ‘ other part of the World; the Ore is so rich
 ‘ and good, that it produces in common, at
 ‘ least, one Half Iron. There is one Furnace
 ‘ and a Forge at *Principio*, which is supplied
 ‘ with Ore, at present, from *Patapsco* River in
 ‘ *Maryland*; another is in *Virginia* upon *Potomac*
 ‘ River, where the Ore lies contiguous to the
 ‘ Furnace and Forge. The Lands near these
 ‘ Places, are very well wooded.—In a very
 ‘ short time, they will be able to work full
 ‘ as cheap, if not cheaper than in *England*.
 ‘ (t) There must be very ill Management, if
 ‘ they are not of prodigious Advantage to the
 ‘ Owners; and it is not at all to be wondered

(p) *Ibid.* p. 74. (q) *Ibid.* p. 75. (r) Present State of *Virginia*, by Mr. Jones, printed for J. Clarke, 1724, p. 128. (s) Importance of the *British* Plantations, p. 76. (t) *Ibid.* p. 77.

‘ at, if many more Furnaces and Forges are
 ‘ erected there ; for in many Places, where
 ‘ there are vast Quantities of Ore, there is
 ‘ the Conveniency of Water, fit for any such
 ‘ Works, or as good as any have ever been
 ‘ erected in *England*. In short, the Iron of
 ‘ these Places, is not inferior to any in the
 ‘ World for Ship-use,——and no doubt, they
 ‘ will find Ways to convert it to most other
 ‘ Uses. (u) In many Places, there is great
 ‘ Store of the Myrtle-berries, which being
 ‘ boiled up to a Wax, make as good Candles
 ‘ as the best Wax-Candles whatsoever.’

(w) ‘ Leather is manufactur’d in *South-Ca-*
 ‘ *rolina, Pennsylvania, New-York, and New-En-*
 ‘ *gland*, not only sufficient for their own Use,
 ‘ but for Exportation to the *West-India* Islands,
 ‘ &c. ——— There are many Saddlers in all
 ‘ those Places, who work no other Leather
 ‘ than such as is made there. The Number
 ‘ of Shoe-makers in the [*Northern*] Colonies
 ‘ is undoubtedly more than all the Smiths and
 ‘ Weavers together ; nay, I am fully persuaded,
 ‘ that, upon Enquiry, it will be found their
 ‘ are as many or more Tanners than Wea-
 ‘ vers. A considerable Part of the Trade be-
 ‘ tween *Boston* and *South-Carolina*, is the light
 ‘ Deer Skins, and those in Hair, which the
 ‘ *New-England* Men carry thence to *Boston*,
 ‘ where they are as well drest, and applied to
 ‘ all the same Uses, as in *England* ; indeed
 ‘ some few of them may be sent over to *En-*
 ‘ *gland*, when they are a little more than ordi-

(u) *Present State of Virginia and the College*, by Mes-
 sieurs *Hartwell, Blair, and Chilton*, printed for *J. Wyatt*,
 1727, pag. 5.

(w) *Importance of the British Plantations*, pag. 79, 80.

‘ nary in demand, but that very seldom is the
 ‘ Cafe. There are Hat-makers in *South Carolina* ;
 ‘ I know feveral in *Virginia*, *Maryland*, *Penfyl-*
 ‘ *vania*, and *New-York*, and there is no Doubt,
 ‘ but that they have many at *Rhode-Island* ; *Bo-*
 ‘ *ston* I know has a great many : I have feen as
 ‘ good Hats which were made there, in all
 ‘ refpects as thofe which we buy in *England*
 ‘ from Ten to Twenty Five Shillings, ’ Then
 he fpeaks of their Weaving and Knitting of
 Stockings.

(x) ‘ The Productions of *Penfylvania* for
 ‘ Exportation are chiefly, Wheat, Flower, Bread,
 ‘ Barrel-Beef, Pork, Hams, Bacon, Cheefe,
 ‘ Butter, Soap, Myrtle-Wax Candles, Starch,
 ‘ Hair-Powder, Apples, Cyder, Tann’d Lea-
 ‘ ther, Upper-Leather drest and curried, Tal-
 ‘ low-Candles, Bees-Wax, Myrtle-Wax, ftrong-
 ‘ Beer, Linfeed-Oyl, Cordial Waters, Deer-
 ‘ Skins, Otter, Fox, Racoön, Minx, and other
 ‘ Skins, and fome Tobacco. They likewise go
 ‘ upon producing Hemp in this Province. —

‘ (y) They export alfo Lumber, as faw’d
 ‘ Boards and Timber for building Houfes,
 ‘ Cyprefs, Shingles, Pipe Hogshead and Bar-
 ‘ rel-Staves and Heading, Mafts, Yards, Spars
 ‘ for any ufes, and Timber for Ship Ufe of
 ‘ all Sorts ; Drugs, as Saffafras, Snake-Root
 ‘ Calamus-Aromaticus, and many others. —

‘ There are feveral Iron Mines in the Coun-
 ‘ try, and fome are already working, whence
 ‘ there is excellent Iron produced. (z) The
 ‘ Goods they fend to *Curafoa* are Bread,
 ‘ Flower, barrell’d Pork, Hams, Indian-Corn,

(x) Ibid. pag. 91, 92.

(y) Ibid. pag. 93.

(z) Ibid. pag. 94, 95.

Strong Beer, Cyder, Butter, Cheese, &c.
 and some Live-Stock namely, Hogs, Fowls,
 &c. — They trade to *Surinam* too, which
 is a very gainful Trade to them. By their
 Trade to *Cape François* and *Petit-Guavas*
 on *Hispaniola*, and to *Martinico*, *Granado*,
Guadalope and *Leogan*, they pick up some
 Money. — Very often they sell all their
 Cargoes in *Jamaica* and other Places for
 Money, and return in Ballast with that Mo-
 ny only. — (a) Some of their Ships to
 the Quantity of 2000 Tons, come directly
 to *Great Britain* and *Ireland* annually; and
 besides their own Produce they frequently
 send us Logwood, Sugar, Rice, Pitch, Tar
 and Train-Oil; in fine, whatever they think
 we want or they can spare. They trade
 to the Provinces of *Virginia*, *Maryland*,
 and *Carolina*, and all the Islands in the *West-*
Indies; likewise considerably to the *Canary*
Isles, *Madera*, and the *Azores*, to *Spain* and
Portugal constantly, or any other Part of
Europe where they can have a prospect of
 Advantage; as also to *Newfoundland*. —
 With *New-England* likewise they have a
 constant Intercourse of Trade. (b) The
 Number of Houses at this Time in *Phi-*
ladelphia is not less than 2400, and the
 Number of Souls not less than 12000. —
 The Number of White People in this Pro-
 vince I take to be greater than those of
South and *North Carolina*, *Virginia*, and *Mary-*
land, all together.

(a) Ibid. pag. 96.

(b) Ibid. pag. 84.

(c) ' Whatever I have said of *Pensylvania*,
 ' with Regard to it's Produce and Trade, may
 ' be said of *New-York*, and the *East* and
 ' *West New-Jerseys*, except that they do not
 ' build so many Ships. Their Trade to *Su-*
 ' *rinam* and *Curaçoa* is perhaps more valua-
 ' ble. To *England* they send fewer Ships,
 ' yet those richer, as they deal for more
 ' Skins and Furs with the *Indians*. (d) The
 ' City of *New-York* hath near as many In-
 ' habitants as *Philadelphia*. '

Something hath been said already of the
 Shipping and Fisheries of *New-England*. (e) ' *The*
 ' *Whale Fishery* produces annually from *Eleven* to
 ' *thirteen Hundred Tons* of *Oil*, including what
 ' is made by *New-England Men* at *Cape Fear*
 ' in *Carolina* (where I have seen three *New-*
 ' *England Vessels* at once on that Account) be-
 ' sides at least forty Tons of *Whalebone*. ———
 ' They likewise send all or most of those
 ' Commodities which are the Produce of their
 ' Country, namely, *Lumber* of all Sorts,
 ' such as *Pipe Hoghead* and *Barrel-Staves*,
 ' *Anchor-Stocks*, *Oak-Plank* and *Timber*, al-
 ' so crooked *Timber*, as *Knees* and *Standards*,
 ' also *Bread*, *Flower*, *Wheat*, *Indian Corn*,
 ' picked *Herrings*, *Mackrel*, and *Sturgeon*, to
 ' many Parts of *Europe* ——— and vast Quan-
 ' tities of *Lumber* and *Horses*, and *Provisions*
 ' of all Sorts to the *West-India* Islands. ———
 ' They likewise trade to the Bay of *Honduras*
 ' for *Logwood* ———. (f) This Colony
 ' produces, tho' not in so great a Degree,
 ' the same Commodities with *Pensylvania* and
 ' *New-York*. Here are several Manufactures

(c) Ibid. pag. 101.

(e) Ibid. pag. 103, 104.

(d) Ibid. pag. 101.

(f) Ibid. pag. 107.

' begun

‘ begun, and they have long been famous
 ‘ for making the best Falling-Axes in the
 ‘ World.’ I have bought of their Hats here
 at a Moidore a-piece, and sometimes more.
 They have several Silver-Smiths at *Boston*. It
 is incredible what Quantities of Soap, Tal-
 low-Candles (as well as Myrtle-Wax), Tallow,
 Gloves, &c. are yearly imported from thence
 into the *French*, *Dutch*, and our own Sugar
 Colonies, as also several Sorts of Iron-Ware,
 and very good Cabinet-Work, such as Tables
 Chests of Drawers, Scrutoires, &c. which *Ire-*
land is not suffer’d to do, under pain of ha-
 ving both the Goods and the Ship which im-
 ports them confiscated, because such Impor-
 tations here are judged to be prejudicial to
 the Trade and Manufactories of *England*.

Whether any of these do, or do not (the
 Lumber-Part excepted, which shall be account-
 ed for afterwards) interfere with the Produce
 and Manufactures of our Mother Nation, do
 you, *Sir*, or any other Person there, be the
 Judge.

But because it is alledg’d with wonderful
 Assurance, that the Trade of the Northern
 Plantations with the Sugar Colonies, both
 our own and the Foreign, brings them in great
 Sums of Money, which are all remitted in
 Specie to *Great Britain*, to pay for their
 Cloathing, &c. from thence; before I proceed
 I will shew you, *Sir*, that this neither is nor
 can be true.

It is well known to all that know the *West-In-*
dias, that there is scarce Money enough for the
 common Uses of Life, among the Inhabitants
 of either the *French*, *Dutch*, or *English* Sugar
 Colonies, and our Northern Colonies do not
 pretend

pretend to trade directly with the *Spaniards* any where in these Parts; nor is it Money, but our Natural Produce that *Europe* or our Northern Colonies want from any of us. The Duties (as hath been said) on our Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, are much higher than on those of *France* or *Holland*; whence the Traders of the Northern Colonies wou'd not come near any *English* Island in the *West-Indies*, if it were not that the *French*, when glutted with Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, prohibit all farther Commerce with them. Certain it is, if they will not take our Produce in Exchange for their Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, we will not deal with any of them, unless (which happens too often) we are distress'd for want of those Commodities; and then the method among our Planters is, either to give Bills, if they have Money in *England*, to the Settled Merchants here (who for that Purpose import Pistoles from *Great Britain*, just as they do other Merchandize) or sell their Sugar to them at 2*s.* *per cent.* under the Price current, to raise the Money for these Northern Traders; and when these Traders have thus got our Money, away they go from us indeed in Ballast, but it is to some of the *French* Islands, or (if the Prohibition is stricter than ordinary there) to *S. Eustace*, *S. Lucia*, and other Places, where the *French* never fail to meet them with their Sugar, Rum, and Molasses; and when they meet, the Money they carried from us is wholly laid out with the *French*, in such of those Commodities as they have most occasion for, and not one Penny of it carried to their own Colonies, much less remitted to *Great Britain*. I could name
G several

several of those Northern Vessels who have sold their Horses, Lumber, and Provisions, at the Island I live in for Money this very year, and have laid out all the Money with the *French* at the *Dutch* Island of *S. Eustace* in Sugar, Rum, &c. Besides, *Sir*, as this Allegation of the Northern Colonies is false in Fact, so you will perceive at first Sight that it contradicts Reason and Common Sense; for a Pistole of four Penny Weight (which is the common Standard here) will sell for no more than 15s. or 15s. 6d. in *England*, but will purchase as much Sugar, Rum, or Molasses, from the *French*, as will fetch above 30s. Sterling in Value, in any one of the *English* Northern Colonies.

Now to proceed: I suppose, *Sir*, it is but too manifest from what has been said already, that the Exporting of Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, from our Northern Colonies, to the Rivals of their Mother Nation in the Sugar Trade (which it is her Interest, if possible, to keep to herself) has enabled those her Rivals to interfere with, and very near beat her out of that Produce at the Foreign Market. What I am next to prove is, That these Northern Colonies have long had, and have now more than ever, other Means of employing themselves, to their own and their Mother Country's Benefit, without meddling with Trade and Manufactures which interfere with Her's, and prejudice her Trade in Sugar, which is as truly to be accounted the Produce of *England*, as if it was actually raised within herself.

The cheif (and which with respect to the Interest of our common Mother, ought perhaps to be

be the only Manufacture of *Virginia* and *Maryland*, is *Tobacco*, which, with due Management, might be brought to employ all the Hands they have ; if not, their Iron-Works undoubtedly will, especially if encouraged to send their Pig-Iron to *Great-Britain*, which would save her no small Article in the Balance of Trade, and preserve her from a Dependance on Places, from whence it may be sometimes not so very easy to get it. (g) ‘ Here are great Advantages for the making of Cyder, Wine, Oil, distill’d Spirits, Figs, Raisins, and conserv’d Fruits—and Dying Stuffs. (b) Here Pitch and Tar may be made in great Plenty, and afforded cheaper than from other Places. (i) In all Parts of the Country, Grapes grow wild, and thrive extremely.— A Gentleman there, formerly planted several Vineyards, from which he made good Quantities of Wine, and would have brought it to very high Perfection, had he lived some Years longer. His whole Family, even his Negroes, drank scarce any thing but the Small Wines. The Strong is of a good Body and Flavour ; the Red seems to have the Taste of *Claret*, and the Strength of *Red-Port*. Not only red Grapes, but also white ones of all sorts from *Europe* produce and grow there to Admiration.— The Clime and Soil, seem well adapted for that Production, especially towards the Hills and Mountains, which at present lie waste.’ *Carolina* being in the same Latitude with *Madeira*,

(g) Present State of *Virginia*, and the College, p. 5.

(b) Present State of *Virginia*, by Mr. Jones, p. 127. (i) *Ib.* 128, 129.

would very probably produce Wine too. * ' It
 ' is said, both Bohea and Green Tea, have
 ' been raised in *Carolina*, extraordinary good
 ' of the kind; the Olive-Trees grow wild,
 ' and thrive very well, and might soon be im-
 ' proved so far as to supply *Britain* with large
 ' Quantities of Oil.—The Indigo Plant grows
 ' exceeding well there; and 'tis thought, if
 ' rightly improv'd, we might be supplied with
 ' it, not only to answer our Home-Consumpti-
 ' on, but with large Quantities for Re-expor-
 ' tation. (k) Much the same may be said of
 ' Silk, which long ago has been made in *Vir-*
 ' *ginia*, and is known by Experience to answer
 ' the Expectation of the Silk-men. (l) Mul-
 ' berry-Trees, the proper Food of Silk-Worms,
 ' thrive as well in *Virginia*, as any Tree what-
 ' soever, and a great deal of this Work being
 ' the feeding of the Worms, and winding off
 ' of the Silk, might be performed by Negro-
 ' Children, that are now so many useless Hands;
 ' (m) and the Silk-Harvest [as it is called]
 ' ending before Hemp and Flax are ripe, the
 ' Hands concerned in the Silk, may turn them-
 ' selves to that of Hemp and Flax, the break-
 ' ing and dressing of which, may be Work for
 ' them all the rest of the Year. The Stocks
 ' and Utensils to be employ'd in them, will
 ' cost but a small Matter.—' *Carolina* seems
 ' still better contriv'd for the Silk as well as the
 ' Wine Produce, (n) ' because Mulberries, and
 ' Grapes from the *Madeiras*, and other Places,

* *Gee's Trade and Navigation of G. Britain*, p. 21.
 (k) *Present State of Virginia*, by Mr. Jones, page 130.
 (l) *Present State of Virginia*, and the College, p. 4. (m)
Gee's Trade and Navigation, &c. p. 89. (n) Letter from
 a Swiss Gentleman, p. 9.

' thrive

‘ thrive very well there; (o) nor is it less proper for Oil, Raisins, Figs, Currants, &c. And since *England* was never yet Owner of a Wine, or of a Silk Plantation, it needs not be said what real Gain these would bring, and what vast Expence they would save to her.

Lumber of all sorts is the Natural Produce of all our *Northern Colonies*, especially *New-England*; and it would be truly hard, if the Hands employ’d in preparing and exporting it, were to be taken off from what has been all along their Business; neither is that expected, altho’ there was never one Foot of it more to be carried to the Foreign Sugar Settlements: For when they have supplied our own Sugar Islands (where it is absolutely necessary for the common Good) with all they want, and our Mother Country with what she may have occasion for, and have put off what more they can to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Streights* (their Shipping so exporting it, calling in at *Great Britain*, and taking out their Clearings from thence before they return Home); I dare say, there will be no Complaint of want of a Vent for their Lumber, whatever there may be of Lumber for such a Vent.

(p) *The richest Copper Mine that perhaps ever was heard of, has been lately discover’d in New-York*, the Working whereof, cannot but divert some of their Hands from Agriculture and Lumber-making, and at the same Time furnish the Nation, at a cheap and easy Rate, with a Metal which costs her no small Sums to get from such Strangers as are not always in her Interests.

(o) *Mr. Gee’s Trade, &c.* p. 155.
of the *British Plantations*, p. 99.

(p) Importance

Pot-Ash, Tallow, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, and Turpentine, may be made or raised in all their Colonies, and Wool in *Virginia*, *New-England*, and other Places, for the Benefit of the Publick; and if these, the Iron and Copper Mines, the Tobacco, Lumber, Silk, Rice, and Wine Manufactures, will not employ all their Hands that are now employ'd in providing Horses, Lumber, and Provisions, for the *French* and *Dutch* Sugar Settlements, there is another that will give the fullest Employment to them all, were their Number greater than it is, namely, the Raising and Dressing of Hemp and Flax for the Navigation and Linnen Manufacture of the Nation.

This gives a full Answer to that Objection made by the *Northern* Colonies, namely, that if they are not allow'd to trade with the Foreign Sugar Settlements, it is impossible for them to make good the Balance of their own Trade with *Great Britain*; since it is manifest, that by betaking themselves to Manufactures that do not interfere with those of *Great Britain*, or prejudice her Sugar Trade, they would be at a *Par* with, or perhaps have a considerable Balance arising to them from *Great Britain*, and in Consequence thereof, Money, to which most of them have been pretty much Strangers, would begin to circulate amongst them all.

And as to what is asserted, that without a Vend for their Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, among the *French* and *Dutch*, they will not have Rum enough to support their Fisheries and Skin-Trade: To say nothing of the Damage done to the Inhabitants of *England*, by the interfering of those Fisheries with her Interests, 'tis certain our own Sugar Colonies
make

make, as the Trade now stands, about 50,000 Hogsheads of Rum yearly, which is well known to be more by three Fifths than is wanted in their Fisheries. The *Indians* buy no Rum to carry away with them; all the Occasion there is for it, in the Skin-Trade, (*q*) is to treat those People with it when they come to trade, or to sell them while they stay and trade; and the Rum they then treat them with, is very seldom the Produce of our Sugar Colonies, but a Sort of Spirit distill'd on the Continent from *French* and *Dutch* Molasses, which, tho' it resembles our Rum in nothing but the Colour, serves well enough to intoxicate these unhappy Savages, and is therefore called by the Name of *Kill Devil*, or (as a *New-England* Teacher is said to have re-christen'd it from his Pulpit) *Kill Man for the Devil*. And here I cannot forbear observing with Respect to this Trade, that if the Skin-Traders continue to treat these unthinking Mortals as they have hitherto done, with this fatal Liquor (and Things, it seems, are now come to that pass, that the *Indians* will not deal with them without it) 'tis much to be feared, there will in Fifty Years more, be very few of their Neighbour *Indians* left alive to deal with; at least, their strange Decrease for the last Fifty Years, is imputed to nothing so much as to their excessive drinking of Rum while trading with the Christians; the Manner of which Trade, as describ'd by one who seems to understand it thoroughly, is this: (*r*) 'Our Traders (*says he*) carry up among the *Indians*

(*q*) Comparison between the *British* Sugar Colonies, and *New England*, p. 34. (*r*) Importance of the *British* Plantations, p. 85.

• Duffles, Strouds, Guns, Powder and Shot,
 • Beads, Rum, Sugar, &c. An *Indian* coming
 • from his Hunt, where he had acquired per-
 • haps Fifty or a hundred Deer-Skins, goes
 • to one of these Traders : The poor Man is
 • generally so cautious, that he will not taste
 • one Drop of Rum before he hath made his
 • Bargain, and supplied himself as far as his
 • Stock will go ; after that, there are but few
 • who have Resolution enough to withstand the
 • seeming friendly Sollicitations of the Tra-
 • ders, who then persuade them to drink, assu-
 • ring them, that it shall cost them nothing ;
 • by this Means, the poor Savage perhaps, his
 • Wife and Children too, are all made drunk,
 • and kept in that Condition several Days ;
 • when they are suffered to come to themselves,
 • they then enquire after the Things which they
 • bought, and frequently have for Answer, *You*
 • *gave them to us for Rum when you were drunk ;*
 • which no doubt might be true enough, for
 • they will part with whatever is most dear
 • to them, while in that Condition, for more
 • Rum.' 'Tis pity a Cure cannot be found
 • for so sore an Evil, which, at the least, de-
 • stroys Mens Bodies in order to trade with
 • them to the more Advantage ; I'm sure it is
 • a foul Blemish on the Christian Name, and
 • what any People ought to blush at, and re-
 • pent of.

But the heaviest Objection is still behind ;
 for, admitting our *Northern* Colonies might
 employ all their Hands in Manufactures which
 do not interfere with *England*, or the Support
 of her Sugar Colonies (whose Manufacture is
 justly to be reckon'd the Manufacture of *England*)
 without continuing their Commerce with the
 Foreign

Foreign Sugar Settlements ; yet, since they have long employ'd themselves, without any Warning or Opposition from their Mother Country, in raising Horses, Provisions, &c. and in trading with those Foreign Settlements, if a Restraint was to be laid on that Trade all at once, would it not go near to ruin them, before they can be enabled by *England* to carry on the Commerce and Manufactures mentioned, so as to support themselves by such Manufactures and Commerce?

To this I answer, *First*, That let the Consequence be what it will they have brought it on themselves, by doing what appears at first sight they ought not to have done ; I mean, by exerting their chief Strength in such Trade and Labours as interfere with *England* : Something also may be laid to the Charge of *England* herself, in so supinely suffering those Colonies to employ themselves so long in such Trade and Labours, as it is evident interfere with her own essential Interests ; or perhaps her other Affairs diverted her too long from looking into the State of those Colonies, and the Practices going on amongst them : If so ; if *England* has been a Sharer in the Neglect or Guilt, it will indeed the more become her to ward off any fatal Consequence that may befall the Northern Colonies, by now restraining them from interfering any longer with her own Interests ; especially, since it is plain that these Colonies may be made very soon, and with no such extraordinary Trouble or Expence, incredibly subservient to her in the highest Matters ; for (f) *it is impossible* (as

(f) Trade and Navigation of *G. Britain* consider'd, pag. 62.

H

Mr

Mr. Gee well observes) to find out five such necessary Articles as, *Hemp, Flax, Silk, Iron, and Pot-Ash* (to which let me add, *Copper*) for carrying on the Manufactures of Great Britain, that can be done with so little Trouble. It seems therefore, I say, to be the Concern of *England*, to provide that her *Northern Colonies* suffer as little Detriment as possible by such a Restraint, and to compensate them some Way or other for Damages unavoidable.

But, *Secondly*, Whatever *England* shall think fit to do for those Colonies, if this Restraint is not laid on, her Rivals will beat her out of the Sugar Trade; if it is, she will beat them out of it. To say nothing of the *Dutch*, the *French*, ever vigilant, being well aware of the Consequences of this Restraint, are already projecting how to defend themselves from it; and some of them in these Parts (if such a Matter may be mentioned on so slender an Authority) are audacious and vain enough to say, that the long Friendship between the two Nations since the Peace of *Utrecht*, has brought them under such mutual Obligations and Dependancies, that the other Interests of *Great Britain*, will not suffer her to deprive them of a Commerce with *Ireland*, and the *British Northern Colonies*, which would in effect ruin their Sugar Settlements in the *West-Indies*. Alas! were this the Case, we should think ourselves fatally foredoom'd to Destruction, contrary to the manifest Interest of our Mother Country, and without any Demerit of our own; and then, it would be but fair to tell us so. Some of us could transplant ourselves, tho' fore against our Natural Bent, to the *French* and *Dutch* Sugar Colonies, with our Negroes, Stock, &c. where

we

we know we should be very welcome ; nay, we doubt not but the former, with all their Bigotry, would, rather than not gain such Jewels, indulge us in the free Exercise of our Religion ; and the rest of us could depart (as indeed too many in these Parts are doing already) to our own Colonies on the Continent, and assist in raising Materials for the Foreign Sugar Settlements, and find our private Account in it as well as the present Inhabitants do : Either Way, we should be lost to the *real* Interests of *Great Britain*, and with us the Sugar Trade. But this Notion being too chimerical to have any Foundation, I should not have deign'd to mention it at all, but that I meant to treat it (as I hope I have done) with the Contempt and Indignation it deserves. Our Rivals themselves know better than to trust to it ; and therefore to prevent the Ruin this Restraint must inevitably bring on their Sugar Islands, they are using and ever will use all Means, open or clandestine, to get what Provisions they can for their Colonies from *Ireland* ; *France* will rather straiten herself than let them want ; Methods are now falling on to procure Mules from the *Spanish* Main, and they are actually lowering the Price of their Rum at *Curaçoa* (where it is much wanted for the coasting Trade with *Spain*) to get Mules from thence ; no Cost (we may be sure) will be spared to provide Lumber from their own Plantations ; and could they but prevail with our Nation to lay a *Partial Restraint* only on the Trade between their Sugar Islands and our *Northern* Colonies, so as to let them have but one single Article from thence, be it Horses, or any one Species of Lumber, or of Provisions ; or our *Northern* Colonies to

take one single Article from them, whether Rum, Molasses, or any thing else, such is the well known Dexterity both of the *French* and our own People on the Continent, that a Door will soon be set open for the whole Trade; the *French* will gain their Point in furnishing the Markets abroad, and our Sugar Trade will at best be confined to Home-Consumption.

It is not here as with some of our Colonies on the Continent, where, when one kind of Produce or Manufacture (suppose *Tobacco*) does not answer, they can betake themselves to another, *as advantageous to their Private Interests, as it is prejudicial to their Mother Country*; we have only one Produce or Manufacture of Value, *viz.* Sugar and it's Dependancies, and when that fails us, we are at a full Stop. Mr *Gee*, who (without Disparagement) may be said to have known less of the true State of the *Southern* than he did of the *Northern* Colonies, says, (1) *Our Planters are so far from being concern'd at the Decay of our Foreign Trade, that they complain too many Sugars are made*, the very contrary to which, is the Truth; for, notwithstanding the present Fall of Sugar in *Europe*, has brought them to near the last Gasps, yet, not doubting but *England* will see her own Interest, with Respect to the Sugar Trade, before it be too late, they are now labouring in that Manufacture as if it were for Life; and I can assure you, *Sir*, there is at this Time (*November 1732*) such a Crop of Canes on the Ground in the *Leward Islands*, that if no hitherto unknown Calamity befalls us, and if the Crops on *Barbadoes* and *Jamaica* prove answerable, as I doubt

(1) *Ibid.* p. 45.

not but they will, you will have upwards of 50,000 Hogsheads of Sugar next Year at the Market in *Great Britain*, above what our Nation annually consumes. And what shall be done with those 50,000 Hogsheads? The *French* are before-hand with us in *Spain* and the *Mediterranean*, as well as at *Holland*, *Hamburg*, and elsewhere; and you will find, upon Enquiry, that, notwithstanding the Advantage the *French* have over us in carrying their Sugar, without introducing it first into *France*, to the *Streights*, *Ireland*, &c. which we cannot do, yet the Markets are so sunk in all those Places, that even the *French* Sugar cannot be sold any where at a living Price. Both Nations have long been vying with one another, which shall gain the sole serving of the Foreign Market, and the Dispute is like to be determin'd soon: If the *French*, (as well as the *Hollanders*) continue to be provided with Necessaries for carrying on the Sugar Manufacture from *Ireland* and our *Northern* Continent, and at the same Time are relieved and cherished by their Mother Nation, they will hold it out still in spite of the Lowness of the Market, and of course we must succumb, and be confin'd to Home-Consumption; if the Trade between our said Countrymen and them, is laid under an absolute Restraint, and our Mother Nation will do us a few kind Offices besides, then the *French* must succumb, and we shall still hold it on, for all the lowness of the Market. For this Contest is not as some weak People imagine, and some selfish People would have us all to think, a Contest between the *British* Southern and *Northern* Colonies, but between *Great Britain* and *France*, which of the two shall be
Mistress

Mistress of the Foreign Sugar Trade. The *French*, well knowing what a Stop it must be to the Wealth, Power, and Grandeur they are aiming at, will try to gain it by all the Means that their Wisdom or Politicks can contrive. We of the Sugar Islands, are resolved to do what we can to gain it for our Mother Country; *we will fight*, as the Song says of *Widdrington*, *on our Stumps*, and not die but with our Weapons in our Hands; and for that Purpose (as has been said) we have now the most promising Crop on the Ground for next Year, that ever was known in our Colonies, and at this Instant are, with the utmost Firmness and Industry, putting another in the Ground for the Year 1734, till when we would fain hope to hold out, as we have hitherto done, against the united Powers of *France* and *Holland*, and our own *Northern Colonies* too, who would rather (it seems) see their Mother Nation lose the Sugar Trade, than not have the Benefit of furnishing her Rivals with the Materials necessary to worm her out of it: Woful Materials, indeed! and such as the Nation might well enough be without; for what Harm would it do to her, if no more Corn or Cattle could be raised in her *Northern Colonies*, than to subsist themselves? In Time of Peace, her Sugar Colonies might easily be supplied from herself and *Ireland*, with all the Provisions they want, and in Time of War too, by providing proper Convoys: Till within these last Twenty Years, I seldom knew a Ship come here for Freight from *London*, that did not bring us 200 Barrels of Flower, and a good Quantity of Bread, whereas now they bring us none, tho' no doubt as able to do it as formerly; as it is, we have the

Bulk

Bulk of our Beef, Pork, &c. (as the *French* and *Dutch* have theirs) from *Ireland*; so that what we chiefly want from them is Lumber. And is it not very good in our Mother Nation to let her Northern supply her Southern Colonies, with a Produce which she can supply them with herself? Will nothing content them, unless they raise the same Produce to such Quantities, as can be no other Way disposed of but by vending it to her Rivals, who are thereby enabled to supplant Her in a Manufacture which she might otherwise in a manner ingross to herself? Thus, *Sir*, are we contending with the united Forces of our Nation's Rivals in the Sugar Trade, and the Practices of our too selfish Sister Colonies on the Continent; I wish there was no Room to complain, that in the midst of this unequal Conflict, we are sore press'd down by ———

But ——— I will go on to consider the other Causes, to which some ascribe the Decay of the Nation's Sugar Trade, and the Methods they prescribe for recovering it.

The Author of *Plan of the English Commerce*, when he comes to answer an Objection against his Proposal for planting the Sugar-Cane on the Coast of *Africa*, says, (u) ' Let no wrong headed Christian suggest, that this would be to anticipate our *West-India* Trade, supplant our other Colonies; and weakening us on one Hand, while it strengthens us on another; let those who talk so consider ——— that as it is evident all our Island Colonies are not at this Time sufficient to supply our Markets with Sugar, including

(u) Pag. 342.

‘ the Quantity demanded for Exportation, so
 ‘ the Quantity cannot easily be too great,
 ‘ nor indeed is there any Danger of it. ’ To
 which I need only say, that if his Book was
 written near the Time when it was printed
 (*anno* 1728) he might easily have known,
 that *England* then was far enough from wan-
 ting Sugar for Exportation, and every Body
 knows that there is more Sugar there now
 than she knows what to do with, and all of
 it the Produce of her own Islands in the
West-Indies

Mr. *Gee*, who knew more of the Matter,
 says, (*w*) ‘ As the Declension of the [Sugar]
 ‘ Trade is visible, and the Danger of losing
 ‘ it too apparent, without some speedy Care;
 ‘ I am humbly of Opinion there can be no
 ‘ other Way to retrieve it, but, by enlarging
 ‘ our Plantations, and not only vye with the
 ‘ *French* in Foreign Markets, but if possible
 ‘ to beat them out of it. ’ To this, and some
 other Observations that follow in the same
 Page, I gave a full and (I hope a) convincing
 Answer in the *Detection* (*x*), to which I refer
 you, but has I had then a Quotation only from
 Mr. *Gee* before me, and have since seen his
 Book, I shall make some farther Remarks on
 what he advances on this Subject.

(*y*) ‘ We are told (*says he*) some of the
 ‘ *Bahama* Islands would produce very good
 ‘ Sugar ————— But that which would enable
 ‘ us most effectually to retrieve our supply-
 ‘ ing the Markets of *Europe*, would be the

(*w*) Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain*, pag. 45.

(*x*) Pag. 81, &c.

(*y*) Trade and Navigation, &c. pag.
 45, 46.

‘ raising Sugar Plantations on the South part of
 ‘ *Carolina*,—especially that fine Tract of
 ‘ Land bordering upon the River of *Port-*
 ‘ *Royal*, a Country abounding with Provisions
 ‘ of all sorts, where Negroes and Servants may
 ‘ be maintain’d at a small Charge. It is high-
 ‘ ly worth making the Experiment——’ Accord-
 ingly, the Experiment has been made, as we
 are assured by one whose Word may be taken
 in those Matters, who says (z) *The whole Chap-*
ter (from whence this Quotation is made) *de-*
erves as much Consideration, as any Part of Mr
Gee’s whole Book——tho’ I cannot be of Opi-
nion with him, that the South Parts of Carolina,
and the Bahama Islands, are proper Places for Su-
gar, because I have been acquainted with the Success
of several Experiments there.

Mr Gee further observes, (a) *We have made*
Enquiry of a great many Planters, who are gene-
rally of Opinion, that no Country produces Sugar
where there are Frosts. And ought not this to
have satisfied him, at least till he could have
opposed Fact to Opinion? And how does he
perform that? Why (says he) on the contrary, we
are informed (he does not say by whom) that
the Province of Nanquin in China, produces ex-
cellent Sugars, tho’ the Country is so cold in Winter,
that it is said, the great Rivers have been frozen
over; and the Province of Peng-ab or Lahor,
produces the best Sugars in all India, which lies
much about the same Latitude with the Southermost
Parts of Carolina. I wish his Informers, who-
ever they were, had told him the Quantity as
well as the Quality of these Sugars.

(z) Remarks on a Book, intitl’d, *The present State of*
the Sugar Colonies consider’d, printed for J. Peele, 1731,
 p. 32. (a) Trade and Navigation, &c. p. 46.

He proceeds: *Sugar has been made in the Island of Madeira, as well as in Old Spain, where also they are subject to Frosts.* But, did any Man ever hear of 500 Hogsheads exported from thence in a Year, or that *Madeira* is capable of producing such a Quantity, or any Quantity that could make it worth while to turn it into a Sugar Plantation? Without doubt, the Sugar Cane may be raised in *England* with more Ease than our Pine-Apple is raised there, and in *Holland*; and I have seen excellent Grapes, and drank excellent Wine made from those Grapes in several Places of *Great-Britain*, and I am informed, that the Southermost Provinces in *Ireland*, produce as good Grapes, as any in all *France*. What then? Shall we plant Vineyards in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to supply us with Wine, both for our own Use, and for Exportation? (b) *Nature* (said the late Bishop Burnet once to Dr D'Avenant) *has adapted different Countries for different Manufactures, [and for different Productions too;]* The cold and moister Climates, are fitter for the working up of Wool, because the Sun does not there exhaust it's Natural Moisture, nor make it brittle, which would render it ill to work, and bad to wear; hot Climates are best for the working up of Silk, because the Matter is there more disposed to imbibe the Dye, and to take a more durable Impression of it, the Sun helping, at the same Time, both to preserve, and to give it Lustre; and is it not known that there is something in the Water of the Clyde (the Philosophy whereof, I have nothing to do with) that helps the *Glasgow* Plads to

(b) Essay of making People Gainers in the Balance of Trade, p. 66.

take a Tincture, which can no where else be given, in the same Perfection, to that Manufacture ?

*Continuo has leges æternaque fœdera certis
Imposuit natura locis* —

Virg. Georg. I. lin. 60.

Possibly Mr Gee did not know, any more than I believe Thousands in *England* of the better Sort do, that the Sugar Cane demands from fourteen to sixteen Months to raise it to Maturity, so that, plant it when one will, it must endure the whole Winter ; and if the Frosts do not always chill and destroy it, they render it (which is much the same) unfit for Sugar-making in any Degree that will quit cost.

Then he tells us, (c) *The Ministers of France know very well, that when Planters grow rich and opulent, they will naturally be above their Business.* But why this of the Sugar Planters alone ? May not the simplest Cobler in all *Wales* know, as well as the Ministers of *France*, that too many in every Rank of Mankind, grow actually (I will not say *Naturally*, for Nature teaches no such Thing) Purse-proud, and above their Business, as soon as they grow rich ? Well, how shall we cure this Natural Disease ? *Therefore*, says he, *that wise Nation [France] hath taken Care to supply the Places of such in their Colonies at the Expence of the Crown ; and if we have any Regard for our Plantations, we must enter into the like Measures, and find out Land for some poor industrious Families, who will renew these Plantations.* Alas ! it was not to supply the Places

(c) Trade and Navigation of Great Britain, p. 47.

of the richer Planters, that the Ministers of *France* took those Measures; for rich Planters are never known any where to forsake their Business, except here and there a Fool or a Prodigal; but they sent forth poor People at the Expence of the Crown, for two Reasons which Mr *Gee* seems not to have been aware of, *First*, because *Hispaniola* is conveniently situated for some higher Views of that Nation; *Secondly*, because the *French* fore-saw they would soon want Land for Sugar-planting, their other Colonies being then almost all thoroughly settled, and some of them leaning to the Decline, *i. e.* the Costs of cultivating them (as it has been long with ours of *Barbadoes*) did near equal the Net Profits. Enough has been said in the *Detection* to expose the Folly of such an Attempt with Respect to *Great-Britain*, where the Ministers, as wise I hope as those of *France*, will never give into it for a Reason that shall be named presently; but since the Thing itself is so much insisted on, I will shew where there is Land enough, and poor and industrious People in Plenty, to set upon such an Enterprize. (d) *Tobago* (says Mr *Gee*) is an extraordinary rich and fertile Island, with an excellent Harbour, abounding with good Water. 'Twas dissettled long enough ago by the *Dutch*, as not lying so convenient for a Trade with the *Spanish* Coast here, which that People have ever had more at Heart than their Planting-Interest, for which perhaps they are not so well adapted as other Nations. But, notwithstanding that, *Tobago* will do very well for a Sugar-Colony, if settled by Subjects of *Great Britain*. *Great Britain* I'm satisfied,

(d) *Ibid.* p. 45.

knows better than to settle it from thence with either her poor or rich Inhabitants, because *she has six times more Land already, fit for little else but Sugar-making, than she knows how to settle, as shall be fully demonstrated in the Sequel of this Letter.* But the Inhabitants of *New England, Rhode-Island,* and what they call the *Bread-Colonies, viz. New-York, East and West-Jersey, and Pennsylvania,* being exceeding numerous, and (if we may take their own Word) exceeding poor, and withal, as is confessed even by those who do not think so well of them in other Matters, very *frugal and industrious,* what if 5000 of their Hands, the very best qualified both for Poverty and Industry, were sent to take Possession of that Island, and with the Assistance of their Parent Countries, and the Protection of *England,* the Supreme Parent of all, to propagate the Manufacture of Sugar, Rum, and Molasses there? If enlarging or multiplying of our Plantations, is the only Way to relieve the Sugar-Trade, and to enable us to vye with the *French,* and even to beat them out of it, this certainly would be one good Step towards it, and another might soon be made at *Santa-Cruz;* let those poor industrious People, or any others that are richer, make but a Beginning in either of those Islands, and I will point out to them, without Fee or Reward, half a Dozen more unoccupied Places within the Torrid Zone, all very fit to produce the Sugar-Cane. But whatever they, or their Friends may take upon them to suggest to Ministers at Home, our *Northern Colonies* are wiser than to make any such Attempt any where; all that they can mean by such a Suggestion is, to *bind heavy (and indeed very needless and idle) Burthens on others,*
which

which themselves will not touch with one of their Fingers.

'Tis amazing, that projecting Heads, who know all Things, do not know, that there is a certain absolutely necessary Expence, without which, Sugar cannot be made any where, whether by Rich or Poor, as well as a certain determinate Quantity of that Manufacture (be that at present what it will) which the Luxury of Mankind, great as it is, does not *communibus annis* exceed. Now, suppose the making of 100 lb. of Sugar, costs the Planter only 6 s. *Sterling*, and that he cannot sell that Quantity at any Market, for more, clear of all Charges, than 4 or 5 s. or perhaps cannot sell it at all, as is really the Case at this Instant; (for the Sugar Manufactures have made more of that Commodity than *Europe*, or the World, does consume; I believe we cannot have less Sugar rotting in the Ware-houses in *Great-Britain* waiting for Exportation, than 40 or 50,000 Hogshheads, and the *French* have the like, or for ought I know, a greater Quantity at the Foreign Markets, eating out itself with Worms and Ware-house Rent.) What is to be done? The Quantity made already, has near ruin'd us for want of a Vent, and to make more without a Vent, must soon ruin all the Manufacturers every where. The chief Competitors in this Manufacture, are *France* and *Great Britain*, and both have brought it to such a Height, beyond the Home-Consumption, that one of us must fail in furnishing the Sugar Market abroad. The *French* fore-saw this fatal Contention long ago, and did all that was in their Power to come off Conquerors in it: They strengthen'd their Old Plantations, and made new ones, which
their

their Court has all along tenderly cherished and nursed up; and because they perceived, that Sugar could not be made to Advantage in most of their Colonies without much Lumber (of which however, they have none of their own worth speaking of, or none that they could come at but in a long Tract of Time, and with great Expence and Difficulty) they found Means to provide themselves with that to the full from the *English Northern Colonies*, from whence also they got the great and necessary Article of Horses, and the much greater of Provisions, from thence and *Ireland*; all which, except the Provisions from *Ireland*, they purchased with Rum and Molasses, two Commodities that were of little or no Benefit to them before: And, in order to gain an early and easy Vent for their Sugar, they allowed it to be exported from their Colonies, to the first and best Markets in *Europe*, without introducing it at all into *France*. Our Colonies have found but little of this Care, Tenderness, and Affection, but more to the contrary than I am willing now to proclaim. And yet, notwithstanding all these Advantages the *French* have had over us, I do not see that their Sugar turns to so very great Account to them at present; but this I think is evident, that without the Advantage of Lumber, Horses, and Provisions, it could not have turned to the Account it does. And whenever our Mother Nation shall think fit to deprive them of that Advantage, and ease her own Sugar Colonies at the same Time, in some Discouragements that press them down, I leave it to any Judge of common Sense, whether the *French*, humanly speaking, can pretend any more to vye with her in supplying the Foreign Sugar Market.

Here

Here I thought to have concluded; but since our Projectors are so fond of new Schemes, and daily giving us their humble Opinions in Things which many Times they know nothing of, I will, if only for the Humour of it, humbly offer a Proposal too, with respect to the Sugar-Trade, which I flatter myself these very Men will fall in love with, and prefer to their own; for it is no less than to shew, how the largest of the six Sugar Islands of *Great Britain*, may be made to produce Sugar enough to serve all the World, altho' the Consumption was to rise much higher than it does; or, in other Words, that the surest Way for our Nation to be Mistress of the Sugar Trade, or of the Market for that Commodity in Foreign Parts, is, to lessen rather than enlarge her Sugar Colonies.

(a) *It appears from the undeniable Evidence of the Custom-House Books, that all the British Colonies produce about 100,000 Hogsheads of Sugar per Annum, of which, if 60,000 Hogsheads are consumed in Great Britain and her Colonies, (which I take to be pretty near the Truth) there will remain about 40,000 for Foreign Exportation. The Dutch make about 40,000 Hogsheads at Surinam, Barbecies, and Esakebe, and but a Trifle at St Eustace, St Martin's, and Curasoa. I have no Way to know what the French make in all their Colonies; nor is there any Occasion for Exactness of Calculation here; because, let the Estimate I am going to make, be considerably over or under the Truth, it cannot affect my Proposal, as will appear presently. But let us suppose that We, the French,*

(c) *Comparison between the British Sugar Colonies, and New-England, p. 15.*

Dutch,

Dutch, and *Danes* at *St Thomas*, make in all 300,000 Hogsheads, and that the *Brazils*, the *Spaniards* in the Provinces of *Guaxaca*, *Guatemala*, &c. the *East-Indies*, and all Places elsewhere, make 200,000 Hogsheads more.

The Island of *Jamaica* is said to contain from Twelve to Fifteen Hundred Thousand Acres of good manurable Land, more than are now cultivated; whether it does so or no is not material neither; for a much less Quantity will serve the Purpose. For admit 600,000 Acres of what it undoubtedly contains was employed every Year in Sugar-making and it's Appendices; each of those Acres could not well produce less, upon an Average than 3000^{lb} of Sugar, or 24 Hundred at the King's Beam in *London*, or any where else, which 24 Hundred being at length reduc'd (because of Accidents, and the Loss that must arise from refining Part of it) to 20 Hundred, the whole in the End would amount to 1200 Millions of Pounds of Sugar *per annum*.

But that being a good deal above twice the Quantity of Sugar that can reasonably be presum'd to be now made or consum'd in the World, admit that only 300,000 Acres of it were planted Yearly; by what has been said the Net Produce at the Market would amount to 600 Millions of Pounds of Sugar, and the Rum and Molasses from thence ought to be (according to the common computing of *Barbadoes*) 360,000 Hogsheads.

But to come lower; Since the *French* and other Nations would doubtless continue (for a considerable Time) the same Manufacture for their own Use, all I need ask to be admit-

ted at first is, that 200,000 Acres of it were planted as has been said, which yielding 400 Millions of Pounds of Sugar, it will be granted that those 400 Millions would more than furnish our selves and all the other Foreign Markets.

To make these 400 Millions of Sugar, we are already possess'd of the first main Article, viz. the *Land*, unless we should dispose of it in the Manner we have done with the conquered Part of *S. Christopher's*, and then, I confess, this Proposal would be pure Banter.

The next is *Hands*, and *other Stock*. And here, besides the White Hands to be named presently, whoever knows with what Number of those our Sugar Plantations have long been maintain'd will allow, that about six Thousand more, which is a number our Nation can spare at any Time, would suffice.

The Number of Negroes sufficient to manure 200,000 Acres is not less than 200,000, which at 22*l.* per Head, great and small, would cost 4,400,000 *l.* Sterling.

And the Expence in Buildings, Mills, Cattle, Utensils, &c. would be near twice as much.

The just Number of White Men, Women, and Children, that are now settled in our six Sugar Plantations, may be seen (as was observ'd before) by any one that pleases at the *Plantation Office* in *London*; but the just Number of Negroes, young and old, that are in the same Plantations, is not so easy to be known, and there may be Reasons why it should not be

be too curiously pry'd into. (f) However, taking Care to do Justice, I shall venture to give a Sketch of it.

<i>Barbadoes</i> may contain	_____	70,000
<i>Antego</i>	_____	23,000
<i>Montserat</i>	_____	7000
<i>Nevis</i>	_____	7000
<i>S. Christopher's</i>	_____	17,000
<i>Anguilla, Tortola, and Spanish-Town</i>		5000
<i>Jamaica</i>	_____	110,000
		<hr/>
		239,000

Now if all the Inhabitants (White and Black) of *Barbadoes* and the *English* *Leward* and *Virgin* Isles, with all the Stock, Sugar Works and Implements (as far as such are portable) were remov'd from thence to *Jamaica*, as the *Dutch* remov'd theirs (gradually, we may be sure, and in Time of Peace) from *Tobago* to their other Colonies, and the *French* did theirs from *Stanta Cruz*, and elsewhere, to *Hispaniola*, there would then be no such extraordinary Want of Negroes, and perhaps a less Want of Stock &c. by three Fourths than I have said; unless we should see Cause afterwards to plant a greater Number of Acres than 200,000, and then there must have been very bad Management if our People are to seek for Hands and Stock to do it with.

But where, in the mean Time, shall we find the Negroes and Stock (be those what they will) that may be yet wanting to form

(f) See a Letter to the Lord Bishop of *London*, printed for *J. Wilford*, 1730, pag. 10, 11.

such an Enterprize? And how can the Settlements of *Barbadoes*, &c. be transplanted to *Jamaica*? Why truly, there lies the Knot! but then it is such a Knot as is richly worth while, and not beneath the highest Dignity, to untie; and if (as a late Peotical Doctor somewhere sings)

*Heroes are for Heroick Deeds design'd,
And Noble Work attends a Noble Mind,*

here it is in Perfection!

And what then must become of *Barbadoes* and our *Leward Islands*? Why, let the *French* the *Dutch*, the *Pope*, or the *Great Turk*, take them all! They are fit for little else but Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, and there would be so much of those made in *Jamaica*, that no People could find it worth While to make more than just enough for their own Consumption, perhaps not so much, perhaps in process of Time none at all. Besides, *Great Britain* would be no longer burthen'd (as she has been pretty much since the *French* first violated the Treaty of Neutrality) to protect them; which yet she knew not how to do; for such is their Distance from one another, and so unable almost all of them to contribute to their own Defence, that in the last War *France* ravag'd and very dear destroy'd Three of them, viz. *Nevis*, *S. Christopher's*, and *Montserat*. And *Jamaica*, being well peopled, could secure itself against all Impressions of any Enemy, and our Fleet there, having little more to do but to protect the Home and Outward-bound Trade, would have Leisure, on all proper Occasions, to pursue him to his own Coasts.

As

As unwieldly as this Project will seem to some, and visionary to others, I wish it may not be the same in all it's Parts *mutatis mutandis*, that the *French* are now meditating to effectuate in *Hispaniola*; an Island that may be rendered much more serviceable to them than a certain Place in *Europe*, about which, a thousand times more Noise has been kept of late, is ever like to prove to the present Possessors; and should they get the start, and succeed in Time (and Appearances are too much in their Favour) We, *Holland*, or who pleases to be plagued with them, may take all their other Islands here, I mean, when reduced to the Condition that *Santa Cruz* and *Tobago*, have long been in.

If this Proposal does no other good, 'twill relieve you, *Sir*, and others of the Legislative Body, from the Teazings of those People, who would have our Nation go to the *West* or *South Coasts* of *Africa*, to plant the Sugar-Cane, or to force Nature in the southermost Parts of *Carolina*, and in other Countries *to be named* (as such Men love to speak) *in due Time and Place*, that is, as I guess, when they can get some Great Man in a Mood to pay for the Discovery: For I have proved, that Sugar enough may be made in our single Island of *Jamaica*, to serve the whole World as long (for any thing that can be said against it) as *England*, or the World itself, shall last.

Upon the whole, *Sir*, Is it not a Shame that such fine Settlements as ours on the Continent, should employ, or be suffer'd to employ themselves (under I know not what Pretence of want of Rum for their Fisheries and Skin-Trade, or of Commodities to pay for the Cloathing, &c. they have from *England*) to supply the *French*
and

and *Dutch* Sugar Colonies, with Materials to ruin the Sugar Trade of *England*? What if some of them were encouraged to produce Tobacco to better Purpose than they do; some to produce Wine and Silk, some to produce Lumber, Horses, Rice, and all manner of Provisions, as well for all the Occasions their Mother Nation may have elsewhere for such Provisions, as for their own Support and Convenience; and almost all of them were employ'd besides, in raising, Hemp, Flax, Iron, Copper, Pot-Ash, and the like? And, since our best Friends to the Liberties of Mankind, shew no more Scruple about it, than the most arbitrary Countries any where, what if the Trade to *Guinea* for *Slaves* (which, I fear, will be found a dark Article, when look'd into) was taken Care of, and our Noble Island of *Jamaica*, applied to some such Purposes as hath been said—— Would not these Arts of Peace, and this narrowing rather than extending of Territory, soon enable our *Common Mother* to cope with, or out-rival, any Nation upon Earth in *Riches*, *Power*, and *Glory*, which are the Mighty Game that all Princes and States have been hunting after ever since the Days of *Nimrod*?

II. The Ship by which I am to send this, being to sail in a Day or two, my Friend cannot gratify you now, tho' you so much desire it, with a Copy of his *Account of the Sale of the French Lands in the Island of St Christopher*; but as you may not have it at Hand, and the Reason of first publishing it increases, I shall desire the Bookseller to add to this, *A Letter from a Traveller in the Caribbees, to his Friend in London*, which was printed in one of the
Weekly

Weekly Journals of the 19th of September, in 1730.

III. And, as to the last, which you seem more to wish for than either of the former ; since it is plain that *the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, is still so taken up with providing for the Christians of the *Northern Colonies*, as not to be able to make any Provision for the Heathen Slaves in the *Southern*; and since the Way with the poorer Sort there, is, as soon as one Place is well settled, to remove farther up, and to clear out new Grounds, and then (as no doubt there is good Cause for it) to plead Poverty, and apply to the *Society for Relief*; and since our Dominions on the Continent, are large enough to find the like Employment for such People for some hundreds of Years to come, I cannot see but their Work on that Side, must be next to endless ; and I wish the intended Settlement of *Georgia* (of which I have just now read some Account in the *Craftsman* of the 12th of *August* last) may not, considering *who* it is to consist of, contribute to make it more so. I consider also, that Irreligion, and Infidelity, are now come to such a Head, (are so openly avow'd and patroniz'd, and the Champions thereof, so seconded in their Attacks by some, from whom a very different Conduct might have been expected) that the Persons whose Business it more especially is to see to the Propagation of the Faith *Abroad*, cannot but have their Hands full to maintain it *at Home*. Besides ; the Nation may not be disposed to listen to such Matters. However it is, I shall defer giving you my farther Thoughts on the Subject of the *Conversion* of
the

the *Negro-Slaves*, until some promising Step can be taken towards it in *England*. Nor should it perhaps have been urged so far—if the groundless Reflexions on the Masters of the Slaves in our *West-Indies*, had not been carried to a Height that was become intolerable, and not only printed and re-printed for above forty Years together in our own Language, but suffered in *Part* to be translated into *French*, and publish'd in Foreign Countries. Mean while, if you can meet with nothing fuller on the Subject, I would desire you to read a *Pamphlet* which was publish'd in *London* in *September*, 1730, intituled, *A Letter to the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London, containing some Considerations on His Lordship's Two Letters to the Masters of Slaves, and the Missionaries in the Plantations*. I have only Time to add, that I am with all imaginable Respect,

S I R,

Your very humble Servant,

From one of the
Leward Islands,
Nov. 27th, 1732.

An Inhabitant of One of His
Majesty's *Leward Caribbee*
Islands.

P O S T.

P O S T S C R I T.

S I R,

Nevis, Decemb. 9, 1732.

Y E S T E R D A Y I received your's of the 10th of October last, in which you observe, *First*, That notwithstanding what is offered in the 79th Page of the *Detection*, [*viz.* That if any thing there advanced concerning *Barbadoes*, or the *Leward Islands*, should be disputed, I would as soon as it came to my Knowledge, either do my best to clear it up, or make an open Acknowledgment of my Mistakes, as well as of those which my Friend, in whose Sentiments I profess'd myself to be, might have committed with respect to *St Christopher's*] yet some Persons have insinuated to you *in Private*, and upon their Honour, that the Account of Things given there is wrong or trifling in the main, and unable to stand the Test in any material Point. That there are Mistakes in lesser Matters is possible enough, but none I trust in the more momentous and essential; if any should be found in either, I declare again, that whenever I can hear what they are, my Recantation shall be made as conspicuous as my Fault. In the mean Time, *Sir*, I am extremely obliged to you for directing those Objectors to write down what they had to say against the *Detection*, and to publish the same to the World. Very like, you will hear no more from them at all. Our Northern Colonies speak out, and we know where to find them; but these Men are *Lovers of Darkness*! and too many of them, both here and with you, (taking Advantage of the Diffi-

L

culties

culties of gaining the proper Intelligence from these Parts, the Regard that must be paid in *England* to the Reports of some body or other, and the Preference that is due to theirs, whose Opportunities of knowing the Truth are best) have long made it their Business to disguise to the Nation the State of her *West-India* Affairs, which nevertheless begin now to appear to be such as concern her prime Interests and Well-being, and therefore to deserve more of her serious Attention and Enquiries than it appears they have hitherto met with. To pretend to direct the Publick, is the Work of Fools; but when one attempts to trace out Things plainly, fit and necessary to be known, and does it in a becoming Manner, it may be hoped, that the Love of Country, Truth, Justice, and *the Light*, will dispose other Gentlemen, if endeavour'd to be misled as you have been, to give much the same Answer to these under-hand Dealers, or *Deceivers*, that you saw Cause to give them.

And, tho' the Fate of Things in all Times and Places is generally such, that they who blame others for shunning the Light, are fain, at the same Time, to affect Obscurity themselves; yet I will venture to say farther, That even among those whose Interest it is, more especially to wish us well, and who busy themselves in the present Application in behalf of the Sugar Colonies, some seem to have wrong Notions, some to have none at all, of the National Concern in the Sugar Trade. Ask such, (as doubtless they will be questioned pretty roundly) What they wou'd have——What it is that will retrieve the Sugar Trade——and I fear you will find them well enough contented to take up with some Temporary Contrivance
or

or Expedient, which may mitigate the present Pain and Anguish, relieve themselves in their *private* or *personal* Distresses, and perhaps give us all a little Ease for a while ; and then (Who would have thought it !) when the Evil returns with fresh Force and Fury, and they return with fresh Grievances and Groans, the Answer may reasonably be, ‘ Since you knew, or ought to have known best, where the Sickness lay, and how to point to the sore Part, Why did you not offer and *insist* on these Things before, when it was *à propos* ? Did we not encourage you to speak your Mind plainly, and without Reserve ? What hindered you then from being more free, full, express, and peremptory ? Must the Publick be teased every other Year, or so, with your Impertinence ? ’

I am therefore glad to find your *Second Remark* falling in with the Purport of the *Supplement* ; namely, that the Disease of the *British* Sugar Colonies does not need, and in your Opinion will *gangrene* by, a *Palliative* Cure : If our Planters are eased in their present Pressures, and the Fountains, from whence is derived the Great Strength of our Nation’s Rivals in the Sugar Trade, are *streight* shut up, which (as you well observe) may be done with a Word, and with equal Justice as Ease, then shall our Nation soon command the Foreign Sugar-Market ; let but these Fountains stand open, in Whole or in Part, and we shall have lost the Season, and our Rivals will command it, and in consequence thereof——

I am, Sir, &c.



*A Letter from a Traveller in
the Caribbees, to his Friend
in LONDON*

Martinico, May 1, 1730.

S I R,

ON the 14th of *April*, N. S. leaving *St Martin's* (an Island inhabited partly by *French*, and partly by *Dutch*) in two Days I reach'd *Dominico*, the Place to which the *Carribbean Indians* retreated, upon their Expulsion, about 90 Years ago, from *St Christopher's*, *Nevis*, and our other Settlements, where (and at *St Vincent's*) they have ever since continued a free and independant People, in Peace and Amity with all their *European* Neighbours. Their present King, or Captain, or Chief, (who calls himself *Lord Gray*) and some of his Retinue, speak tolerable *French*, and a little *English*. The vulgar Sort live still after the Manner of their Savage Ancestors, except that they eat no human Flesh, as having now no Enemies to contend with, or devour. It is their Custom, once or twice a Year, to set out, in a large Periagua, under the Command of their Chief, to the Number of forty or fifty, to visit *Barbadoes*, and some of our Leeward

Leeward Islands, as well as *Martinico*, *Guadalope*, &c. and to carry with them a Cargo of *Indian* Baskets, Bows and Arrows, Crabs, &c. which they exchange at those Places for old Cloaths, Hats, Ribbons, and Trinkets. Wherever they come, the Publick provides them with suitable Lodgings and Entertainment, during their Stay, which is seldom above three or four Days at one Place, and both Nations strive which shall shew them most Kindness and Civility. In one thing indeed our Neighbours far out-do us, having long enough ago sent some of their Itinerant Missionaries to baptize and instruct them in their Religion, in which they have proved so successful, that I confess I have often wondered to hear how some of these poor Creatures will say the *Pater noster*, *Credo*, and *Ave Maria*, both in *French* and broken *Latin*; but, alas! none of them are taught any thing of the Kind in *Englsh*. The Reason of which I take to be this: —

The Clergy in all the *French* Colonies are very numerous, their Number in this Island where I now am being reckoned twice as great as that of ours in *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, and all the Leeward Islands together; they have no dead Weights upon them, nothing to mind but the Propagation of Learning and Religion; some of them are bound by the Rules of their Order to travel for that Purpose; and all of them are amply supported in every Respect from *France*, or else enabled by the Publick of their several Colonies, to carry on the Work with advantage: Whereas, besides the small Number of our Clergy, there is not one of them but is obliged to attend his Parochial Charge, or go without Maintenance; some have
Families

Families to provide for, which few of the Livings in these Parts will do without calling in other Aids; and were they to travel to propagate the Gospel, it must be wholly done at their own Expence, there being other Uses for the publick Monies in our Sugar Colonies and no Provision as yet made (that I have heard of) for such an Undertaking, by either Church or State, in *England*. To which I fear I may too truly add, that the Roman-Catholics every where are more industrious in propagating the Faith, than the Protestants of any Denomination any where. But this by the by.

As I went ashore at Prince *Rupert's* Bay, to see the Place, and to take in some Wood and Water, I was not a little surpriz'd to behold it crowed with *Frenchmen*, to the Number already (as themselves own'd) of 500 fighting Men, who are busy in forming Settlements, planting Cotton and Provisions, and building Houses for their Families, not in Towns, (which would not serve the present Purpose so well) but in the several Plantations and smaller Parcels of Land. Boats are passing daily between the *French* Islands and *Dominico*, which furnish Necessaries to carry on the Infant-Colony. Upon further Enquiry, I found they had made a Sort of Purchase of the Land for a great Way up the Country from the *Indians*, for a valuable Consideration, that is (if their own Explanation deserves Credit) two or three hundred Acres of the best of it for a Cask of *Provencal* Wine, an Anchor of Brandy, a Cag of Rum, or some Beads and Trinkets, which these innocent Mortals (who neither know the Use we make of Money, nor desire
to

to know it) are extremely fond of; and that the same Purchases, or Agreements being all drawn up in Writing, with the Mark or Seal of the Venders upon each, are carefully kept by the Purchasers and transmitted to be recorded in the Archives of *Martinico*, &c. The *Indians* are almost all retired out of Sight, to the North-East Part of the Country, where some Friars (as it is said) are instructing them in Christianity. This Island is very mountainous; however, being pretty large, bigger perhaps than any one of ours in the *Caribbees*, it cannot but turn to Account in time, make an excellent Sugar-Colony (did not the Possession of *Hispaniola* make it needless to settle more Colonies on the Sugar Account) and strengthen the *French* Interest in this Part of the World, beyond what a Stranger would imagine; but as it has hitherto been a neutral Port in War-Time, and is well provided with Wood and Water, and for that Reason, and to gain Intelligence, much frequented by our Ships, especially the Men of War on the *Barbadoes* and Leeward-Island Stations, I know not, if a Rupture should again happen between the Two Nations (which for the Sake of our Sugar-Colonies I wish may never happen) but this new Settlement will turn no less to our Disadvantage.

From thence I came to Port *St Pierro*, of this Island, where I have now been 11 Days. The Merchants, and other Persons of Credit, with whom my Business lies, confirm all that I heard at *Dominico*, adding, that it is the more substantial Planters and Traders of this Island, and *Guadalope*, who have made the Purchases there, and are sending Overseers, Servants, and
Slaves,

Slaves, to maintain and advance the Settlement, and that however the Governor of *Martinico*, to whose Government they say *Dominico* belongs, does not think fit at present to fix a Deputy Governour upon it, but suffers the same to be rul'd by what they call a Captain-Commandment, whose Office it is to prevent Disorders, and to decide and accommodate Differences in a summary Way, yet the Persons who have made the Purchases there seem fully satisfied, that the same will be confirm'd from *France*, and a Governour in due Time appointed over that Island.

As to *St Lucia*, although, by the Eighth Article of the Treaty for the Evacuation of that Place, concluded *January* the 18th 172³, betwixt the Marquis *De Champigny* and Mr *Uring*, it is agreed, that the same should remain in its former State and Condition, until the Right to it shall be decided by the two Crowns, yet I am assured it is now inhabited by great Numbers of People, chiefly *French*, who are govern'd in the Manner of *Dominico*, and plant Cotton, and Provisions, and rear Abundance of small Stock, with which they are every Day trafficking in this Island. It is at *St Lucia* that the clandestine Trade from *Ireland* and our Northern Colonies of *New England*, *Philadelphia*, &c. to the Islands of *Martinico*, *Guadalope*, &c. is (and ever since the Duke of *Montague* quitted it has been) in a Manner wholly carried on, to the great Profit of the *French*, and the no less Detriment of *England* and our Sugar-Colonies; of all which I gave a particular Account *Anno* 1727; but thro' some Fatality or other, it never saw the Light.
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The *French* fighting Men on *St Lucia* are said to be near a Thousand.

And the like Number is reported here to be now settled on *St Vincent's*, where an *English* Ship from *Guinea*, having unfortunately run a-shore many Years ago, the Negroes that saved themselves are at this Time increased to above a Thousand, (some say to near Two Thousand), and have had the Fortune to drive the *Indians* almost quite off from thence to *Dominico*. The French are so far from treating these Blacks as Slaves, that they allow them to be a free People, and accordingly have lately come to some Convention, and struck up a Friendship with them, which is faithfully maintain'd by both Parties. The *French* go to *St Vincent's* to trade, and admit the Negroes to trade here, and in their other Islands, and use them every where with such Justice, Favour, and Complaisance, that they have intirely won their Hearts, and thereby found means to fix (as I have it from themselves) about a Thousand of their Men amongst them who plant Provisions, Cotton, but especially Tobacco, which thrives so well in that Island, that whole Sloop-Loads of it are frequently imported here, and from hence into *Europe*.

I am so far from desiring others to believe all these Reports, in their Extent, that I do not believe them all my self, as not being ignorant of the Humour of the Relators. But what if they should prove true in the Main? If it is sometimes no such easy Matter to learn what our dextrous Neighbours are doing on the Shore nearest Home, what must it be to discover what the same are doing on several Shores at the Distance of fifteen hundred

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Leagues

Leagues from thence? Is there any more Mystery in making Hay, or something like it, in the *West-Indies*, than in *Europe*, while the Sun shines? Were it to be supposed that the Glory of a Prince, and the Prosperity of his Subjects could clash or interfere, which in no Case, I think, ought to be supposed, because, like the great Physician's Twins, they are born, grow up, live, thrive, laugh, weep, languish, sicken, and die together; the *French* certainly are as unfeign'd Promoters of the common Interest of their Country, as they are devoted to the Glory of their King; nay, their Men in Power, even in Places the remotest from *Paris*, seem more to consult the thriving of Posterity, than that mighty Gratification in hand of making the most of their Posts or Offices while they hold them, and therefore gladly receive the slightest Intelligence that has a Tendency to the publick Emolument, from what Quarter soever it arrives. Why then should we, who deign to stoop to the most servile Imitation of their Levities and Vice, disdain to imitate their exemplary Wisdom and Virtue? Why should it not pass for praise-worthy in us to shew some Concern for our King and Country too, and, as Opportunities offer, both to tell and hear whatever tends to promote their Honour and Safety, or that, in any Degree, may prove a Hindrance to either? *Barbadoes* and *Montserrat* (abating for the Addition which in common with our other Colonies, they have to make to the Salaries of the Governours) are in much the same State they were in forty Years ago, *Antego* has made considerable Improvements, within that Time, and is now at it's Height; *Nevis* from

from being the most flourishing, is, within these twenty Years, become the least considerable of our Leeward Islands; and *St Christopher's*, notwithstanding the King of *France's* Cession of his Part thereof, is, by the late Sale of that Part (as will appear when it comes to be review'd) so deeply involv'd, that, without due Relief, it must fall into a worse Condition than any of them. *Anguilla* was never of any great Importance, and being very low Land is now almost forsaken of it's Inhabitants, because of the continued Dry Weather; *Tortola* and *Spanish-Town* are but poorly settled and perhaps not worth settling at all. I say nothing of the Number of our White Inhabitants, because the Curious will find that at the Board of Trade in *London*. On the other Part, *Martinico* is acknowledged by all that have been any Time upon it, both *French* and Foreigners, to be able to raise between five and six thousand fighting White Men, and *Guadalope* near three thousand; *Marigalante* *Granade*, and other Colonies, are improving; all the World knows what Progress the *French* make in *Hispaniola*; and were they to fortify as well as settle *St Lucia*, *St Vincent*, and *Dominica* too, (to which Places our Pretensions are by some said to be as good, or better, than theirs) what would become of our *Caribbees*, on the Event abovemention'd? Heavy were our Losses, and hard (God knows) our Labour to defend our selves, in the two last Wars with *France*, when her Power in these Parts was very small to what it is now.

I therefore wish you would find some Way of publishing this Intelligence, such as it is, to serve till a more full and exact Account of these

these Matters can be had, which I assure you may be had at any Time (by those who have a Right to demand it) from the King's Ships station'd at *Barbadoes* &c. who frequently touch at *St Lucia*, *Dominico*, and the *French Islands*, and therefore cannot but know what is going on amongst them. Or if one Mariner will not or cannot, another may soon be met with that both can and will.

I am Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

FINIS.

Errata in the Letter to the Lord Bishop of London.

Page 6. line 34, for *Country*, read *County*, p. 22. l. 26, after *Sort*, add *of*. p. 24. l. 14, for *Judgement*, r. *Intendments*. p. 26. l. 22, after *were*, add *a*. p. 31. l. 9, for *already*, r. *always*. p. 32. l. 28, dele *ever*. p. 55. l. 36, for *wholly*, r. *only*. p. 57. l. 35, read *Affirmations*. p. 59. l. 5, read *Refuse*. p. 68. l. 27, after *till*, add, *all*. p. 72. l. 14, for *little*, read *like*. p. 79. l. 16, dele *of*. l. 28, after *rate to*, add *be*. p. 85. l. 17, read *Enquirers*. p. 86. l. 30, for *two*, r. *too*. p. 88. l. 24, r. *relates*. p. 92. l. 29, r. *Volsinian*. p. 96. l. 24, r. *Ages*. p. 100. l. 13, r. *propagate*. l. 22. for *my* r. *any*. p. 102. l. 20, r. *dicere*.

Errata in The Detection.

Page 7. line 27, after *know*, add, *now*. p. 19. l. 21, for *Fifth*, r. *Fourth*. p. 25 l. 8, dele *is*. p. 38. l. 1, for *are* r. *were*. p. 40. l. 30, r. *probably*. p. 44. l. 24, for *my*, r. *many*. p. 46. l. 24, for *Cash*, r. *Cask*. p. 48. l. 13, r. *deducted*. p. 50. l. 31, for *would*, r. *will*. p. 51. l. 26, after *less*, *of* add, *the State of*. p. 54. l. 33, for *his*, r. *this*. p. 57. l. 14, after *thereby*, add, *hard*. p. 73. l. 15, dele, *a*. p. 78. l. 11, r. *Employing*. p. 87. l. 36, after *paid to*, add, *the Reports of*. p. 96. l. 36, for *say*, r. *saw*.

A Second POSTSCRIPT.

S. Christopher's, January 1734.

MY Intelligence from *London* of what passes there in relation to *Plantation* Concerns having been very short of late, I was glad on my Arrival here this Morning to meet with a small Piece, intituled, *The Gentleman's Magazine, or, Monthly Intelligencer, for Sept. 1732*, in which the Author, in what he calls *Debates in Parliament*, introduces Mr O——pe as saying, “ I remember there was once a Petition presented
 “ to this House by one County, complaining,
 “ that they were injured in their Trade as to
 “ the Sale of *Beans* by another, modestly pray-
 “ ing, that the other County should be prohibi-
 “ ted to sell any *Beans*”. Such a Petition, for ought I know, was as ridiculous as Mr O——pe would make it; but, admit each County had it's separate or proper Produce, which did thrive better there than in any other, and that one particular County was able to produce *Beans* enough for all the Occasions the Nation has of *Beans*, and could hardly produce any thing else, and was therefore encouraged by the Nation to produce *Beans*; If another County, better adapted for some other Produce than *Beans*, suppose *Hops*, should drop or diminish it's proper Produce, and take to the raising of *Beans*, and by so doing both fall short in raising a due Quantity of *Hops*, and also injure that other County's Trade in the Sale of *Beans*; I ask, Where the Absurdity would be, if the *Bean-County*, thus injur'd in the Sale of it's proper Produce, did modestly petition,

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that

that the *Hop-County* should be prohibited to sell any *Beans*? The Case, thus stated, is not unlike that of the *Southern* and *Northern Colonies* of *England*, in the former whereof there is Land enough (as is proved in the *Detection* and the *Supplement*) to produce *Sugar* enough for all the Occasions *England* can have for *Sugar*; and if *England* knew (as it is also there proved She does) how to raise *Sugar* enough from such Land (which is fit for nothing else that can equally conduce to the National Profit) to furnish all the Foreign Markets as well as her self, I believe every *Englishman* will allow, that it would be very much her Interest so to do; and consequently he must allow, that if any of her other Colonies (whose Soil is not so fit for raising *Sugar*, but very fit for other Productions eminently profitable for the Nation) should neglect or diminish their proper Productions, and pretend to produce *Sugar*, it would also be very much her Interest to restrain them from producing it. 'Tis confessed the *Continent-Colonies* of *England* cannot interfere directly with the Produce of her *Island-Colonies*, because their Land will not produce *Sugar*; but then, which is ten thousand times worse for the Nation than if they did produce *Sugar*, they supply the *Sugar-Colonies* of *England's* Rivals in the *Sugar-Manufacture*, with Materials to raise *Sugar*, viz. *Lumber*, *Horses*, and *Provisions* (as *Ireland* also supplies them with *Provisions*) without which Supplies the Rivals of *England* could not so produce *Sugar* (for the Proof of which I refer to the *Supplement*) as to interfere with her *Sugar-Produce* at the Foreign-Market, much less to beat her out of the Foreign *Sugar-Market*, as they have now very near done by Virtue of those Supplies.

Mr

Mr O——pe seems to lay no small Strefs on the Extent of our Dominions on the Continent, *which reach from the 34th to the 46th Degree of Northern Latitude*, to which he might have added their People, which I take to be more than 500,000, whereas all the Inhabitants of our *Sugar-Colonies*, White and Black, Men, Women, and Children, do not, as I apprehend, come near that Number. But then, it is not the Quantity of Land, or the Multitude of People in Colonies, that will enrich (tho' possibly both of them may hurt) the Nation they belong to, unless that Land and People are properly employ'd; and if it can be made appear, that a few Hands and a small Compass of Land in the *Southern Colonies*, will bring vastly more Wealth to the Mother Nation in the Production of *Sugar* [*which is so peculiarly their Production, that neither the Mother Nation nor any of her Dominions elsewhere are capable of producing it*] than a great Number of Hands, and a thousand Times the Quantity of Land in the *Northern Colonies* can bring to her from the Production of *Lumber, Horses, and Provisions* [*which in the main interfere with her own Produce*] then that Argument falls of itself. What Advantage the *Northern Colonies* can bring to their Mother Nation in the Productions of *Cattle and Provisions*, let themselves shew when they think fit; only, let it be remember'd, that *Lumber* (as far as there is a Vent for it in *Great Britain and Ireland*, and in the *British-Sugar-Colonies*, and in *Spain, Portugal*, and the *Streights*, which, I fear, will too soon be Vent more than enough for it) *Tobacco, Rice, Hemp, Flax, Pitch and Tar, Pot-ash, Wine, Oil, Silk, Copper, Iron, &c.* are all out of the Question; because the

Production of these, or most of these, is what the National Interest requires the *Continent-Colonies* to be employ'd in: And if any Gentleman in *England* wants to know what the Nation gains from the very small Quantity of Land that is possible at present to be cultivated in her *Sugar-Colonies*, and the very few Hands with which it is cultivated, I beg leave to refer him for a *Specimen* to the 22d and 23d Pages of a small Tract (often quoted in the *Supplement*) intituled, *The Present State of the British Sugar-Colonies consider'd*. where he will find that *Barbadoes* (which I think does not contain much more than 80,000 Acres of manurable Land, and a less Number of Hands than is proper to be mentioned here) has for many Years down to the Year 1731. yielded Annually to the Publick in the *Net Proceed* of Sugar at a *Medium Price* ————— 320,000*l*.

Rum and Molasses ———— 80,000

Ginger, Cotton and Aloes ———— 20,000

Duty to the Crown, at least ———— 50,000

Home-Freight ———— 66,000

Commissions, Port-Charges, &c. — 22,600

558,600

I believe it will not be easy to shew such another *Land Product*, so profitable to the Publick, as this of the *Sugar-Cane* is (I will not say from the *Northern-Colonies*, but) from any other Quarter where there is no more Land and People than in *Barbadoes*; and the Custom-House Books will prove farther that the Sugar of *Barbadoes* is not much, if at all, above one Fourth of what is produced yearly in all the *British Sugar-Colonies*.

I see

I see nothing more in this Speech that looks like Argument, and nothing that shews the least Acquaintance with Facts, or the State of the Case; but am not a little pleased to learn from so sure an Authority as Mr. O——pe's, that *the Gentlemen concern'd in the Board of Trade are as exact and as diligent in all Matters which fall under their Consideration as any Board in England*; for indeed some Colony-Matters that should come under their Consideration demand the utmost Diligence and Exactness; and had their Predecessors been as strict and careful in their Enquiries, as such Matters evidently required, the directing the Motions of the several Colonies to the general Interests of the Nation, cou'd not have proved so troublesome as I conceive it does at this Juncture; and the not knowing, or not considering, the peculiar Relation that each Colony bears to the Mother Country, and the Profit or Loss that derives to her from thence, cannot but be thought the more inexcusable in those their Predecessors, because Dr D'Avenant inform'd the Publick so long ago as the Year 1698 (as hath been already said in the Supplement) that even then *the Negligence of former Times had suffer'd a greater Number of [English] Plantations on the Continent, than well consist with the Navigation and other Interests of their Mother-Country*; that it cannot be for the Publick Good of a Kingdom, to furnish Colonies out of it with People, when the Product of such Colonies is the same with the Kingdom's, and so rivals the Kingdom, both in it's Navigation, and in it's Product, at the Markets where such Product is vend'd; that it can hardly be the Interest of a Country to suffer it's People to make Settlements of several Plantations that yield one and the same Commodity; that
grasping

grasping at two great an Extent of Territory, may ruin the Nation's Interest in America; that if they should pretend to set up Manufactures on the Continent, and to cloath as well as feed their Neighbours; their Nearness, and Low Price, wou'd give them such Advantages over their Mother Nation, as might prove of pernicious Consequence ——— And some other useful and excellent Hints did he then give concerning Colonies, which, had they been taken by *that Board*, might have done a deal of Good, and saved Abundance of Expence and Trouble to the Nation.

And tho' I am no great Friend to the settling of *National Colonies any where* on the Foundation of *private Charities*, with which the well-disposed People of *Great-Britain* have long been sufficiently burthen'd otherwise; and tho' a certain *Dean*, whose Proposal for founding a College at *Bermudas*, met with the joint Approbation and Countenance of Court and Country, Clergy and Laity, and who was better fitted out for his Purpose than other Adventurers to these Parts use to be for theirs, has lately given the World a Demonstration what the most plausible Schemes, formed (at the Distance of *Great Britain* from *America*) upon naked Theory, and such *borrowed or backney* Intelligence as can be picked up, are like to come to: Yet, if I guess aright who Mr O——pe is, such are my Resentments of the Miseries of the Unfortunate, and of the Necessity there is of a better Barrier (for the propagating of Christianity among the Savages is, I may say without Offence, thrown in *to fill up*) that I heartily wish him, and those concerned with him in the same Undertaking, all the Success they can desire; provided the Colony they mean to settle

fettle be not suffer'd, on any Pretence whatever, to go upon such Produce, Trade, or Manufactures, as can in the least interfere with those of *Great Britain, or of her other Colonies*; for as that wou'd tend to *destroy the mutual Dependance that the People of all the British Dominions ought to have upon each other*; it is also farther observ'd in the last Page but two, as I remember, of Mr Gee's Book, *That the interfering of Colonies with their Mother Nation would do much Hurt to the Nation, and end in no Good to the Colonies*; insomuch that, after all that can be said or done to cloak the Thing, the Nation will find it out at length, and be necessitated to suppress them sooner or later; and therefore (as Mr Gee well advises) *all such Attempts should be crush'd in the Beginning; because if they are suffered to grow to Maturity, it will be difficult to suppress them, and the suppressing them will seem a great Hardship on the People*. I doubt not but the Gentlemen whose Province it is to *see that the Nation be not injur'd by her Colonies*, are at this Instant deeply sensible of some Difficulties of this kind, and perhaps pretty much puzzled how to remove the sad Effects of such former Mistakes or Mis-carriages as never could have happen'd had the well-weigh'd Counsels of Dr D'Avenant been embrac'd in Time.

To conclude, I hope we shall hear no more of the Valuableness of Colonies to the Mother Nation *merely* for their Extent of Land, when it is evident, that the Misapplication of that Land, and of the Hands that cultivate it, render both of them a Mischief rather than a Benefit to their Mother Nation; whereas, indeed, a right *Direction* of both wou'd effect just the contrary. The sooner that is given, the better for *Great Britain,*

Britain, and a little longer Delay will lose her the *Sugar Trade*; and the Loss of that will be to Her *upon the Balance* what Deserters are in a *Battle*, a Loss to the Side they leave, and a Gain to that they go to, which is *double*; the Prevention whereof, and not any Dislike to the *Northern Colonies*, or extraordinary Attachment to the *Southern*, is the Reason I have thus troubled the Publick.

As soon as any New Matter comes to my Knowledge on the Subject of the *Detection* or the *Supplement*, you shall hear again from,

S I R, &c.



FINIS.

